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Daily Report

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Central Eurasia

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CIS Summit Agenda Detailed

LD1404122894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1105
GMT 14 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow April 14 TASS—ITAR-TASS learnt from reliable sources on Thursday that the draft agenda of the summit of the Commonwealth of Independent States will include the following 15 items:

1. Ukraine's accession to the economic union as an associated member.
2. Establishment of a permanent body of the economic union—interstate economic committee.
3. Creation of a free trade zone.
4. Founding treaty on setting up a Tajikistan aid fund.
5. Measures to ensure cooperation between CIS countries and its charter bodies, on the one hand, and international organisations and forums, on the other.
6. Regulations of the defence ministers' council of CIS member states.
7. Additional measures to stabilise the situation on the Tajik- Afghan border.
8. Cooperation on mobilisation preparations of the economies.
9. Time of stay, composition and tasks of the collective peace-keeping force in the Republic of Tajikistan.
10. Commander of the collective peace-keeping force.
11. Information on progress in the negotiations between the Russian Federation and Central Asian and Transcaucasian states on cooperation in the protection of their borders with third countries.
12. Convention on ensuring rights of people belonging to national or ethnic, language and religious minorities.
13. Declaration on observing sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of borders of CIS member states.
14. Date and place of holding the next meeting of the Council of CIS Heads of State.
15. Miscellaneous.

The above summit draft agenda is preliminary. It can be changed either at a meeting of the CIS coordination-consultative committee or at the meeting of the presidents on Friday.

Ministries Favor Joining NATO Partnership Program

LD1404124394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1055
GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] The Partnership for Peace program is an alternative to NATO's mechanical expansion. Participation in this program will strengthen the CIS position in NATO, Director of the All-European cooperation Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry Yuriy Ushakov declared on Thursday addressing the parliamentary hearings entitled The Partnership for Peace Program and the future of the CIS, held in the State Duma.

Ushakov pointed out that Russia "should actively break NATO's claims to having a monopoly on the solution to issues related to collective security" and it would be more efficient to do this "from inside, by joining NATO's program." He reminded that as many as 14 states had already signed the basic agreement on joining NATO's program, including Ukraine, Moldova, and Georgia; Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan are on the point of signing this document.

A spokesman of Russian Defense Ministry Major General Pavel Zolotarev, who also addressed the hearings, also spoke in favor of Russia joining NATO's program. He stressed that the Defense Ministry "views it as an interim stage on the way to the creation of collective security in Europe."

Zolotarev indicated that joining the program "does not mean any financial obligations on the part of Russia which will itself determine the dimensions of its participation." Zolotarev said that opponents of Russia's joining the Partnership for Peace program fear that NATO may render active pressure on Russia. Zolotarev believes that "mutual detente is always more efficient via cooperation than via confrontation."

"If Russia does not join NATO's program it will appear in self-isolation and NATO will actually receive access to Russian borders," emphasized Zolotarev.

Four committees of the State Duma which initiated the parliamentary hearings - the CIS affairs committee (chairman Konstantin Zatulin, Party of Russian Unity and Concord faction), security committee (chairman Viktor Ilyukhin, Communist Party faction), committee on geopolitics (chairman Viktor Ustinov, Liberal Democratic Party faction), and industry and transport committee (chairman Vladimir Gusev, the LDPR faction) adhere to the adverse point of view.

The working documents coordinated by these committees and distributed at the hearings point out that Partnership for Peace program has been practically announced as a "real alternative to the military-strategic partnership between the former USSR republics within the CIS, and this is a direct loss to Russia's national security."

CIS Foreign Ministers Agree on Draft Declaration

LD1404193494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1658 GMT 14 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Vladimir Taranov]

[Text] Moscow April 14 TASS—As a result of consultations among delegation members and experts, the joint meeting of the Council of CIS Foreign Ministers managed to agree upon a draft declaration on sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of borders of CIS member-countries. Insignificant differences were settled in the course of discussion.

The Armenian delegation is most likely to refrain from signing the declaration.

A draft convention for ensuring the rights of national minorities was subjected to more substantial criticism. Participants in the meeting decided to send the document for reconsideration by experts.

Ministers Fail To Reach Agreement on Minorities

LD1404215394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1934 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) foreign ministers have once again failed to reach agreement on a draft convention on the rights of national minorities, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said.

"Unfortunately, the convention caused debates again. I hope they were motivated by the desire to improve the document. We are getting closer to the approval of the convention, although it is a painful and difficult process," he said after a meeting of CIS foreign ministers held in Moscow on Thursday.

Kozyrev said the convention was a "difficult political matter for some states." "It deals with the lives of millions of people, and therefore it's important here to evade mistakes, so we should feel relaxed about the postponement of the approval of the convention," he added.

But the meeting did approve a declaration of sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of the borders of CIS countries, the Russian minister said. "It is a useful document giving the lie to the speculations that the CIS is some kind of neo-imperialist club," he said.

Meanwhile, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko told Interfax the declaration had been opposed only by Armenia, which, he thought, might not sign it. "It proposed its own declaration, which it had the right to do," he said.

Kozyrev said positive decisions had been taken on all other matters, including collective security.

The ministers also approved a flag for the CIS, proposed by the Commonwealth's Interparliamentary Assembly, and recommended that Friday's CIS summit approve it too.

"That is not a national symbol. It doesn't have the same meaning as national flags do. It's something like the United Nations flag. It symbolizes humanitarian ideals, unity and common goals," Kozyrev said.

Aliyev Believes CIS Should Promote Karabakh Settlement

LD1404160694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1444 GMT 14 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Shulman]

[Text] Moscow April 14 TASS—Azerbaijan is ready for reasonable compromises in settling the Armenian-Azeri conflict, but it will never put up with the occupation of its territories, Azeri President Geydar Aliyev said in an exclusive interview with TASS upon arriving in Moscow on Thursday to attend a CIS summit.

According to Aliyev, the republic's leadership is now thoroughly considering a new draft agreement set forth by Russia and designed to put an end to the conflict over the Nagorno-Karabakh enclave. Azerbaijan agrees in principle to this document but deems it necessary to amend it with due regard for the republic's remarks and proposals, the president said. "If the Armenian side agrees to them, the document will be signed", Aliyev announced. He expects to meet in Moscow with his Armenian counterpart Levon Ter-Petrosyan.

Speaking to newsmen at the Vnukovo airport, the Azeri leader expressed hope that "the present summit will help consolidate the CIS". Azerbaijan attaches great importance to mutual relations between CIS countries, which Aliyev believes should be discussed during the Moscow high-level meeting. We would like our Commonwealth to become more viable in all respects, the Azeri president stressed.

He is convinced that the CIS can also have its say in settling the Armenian-Azeri conflict, "it should not just look from aside at the continued bloodshed on Azeri land".

Aliyev described the current situation in the conflict zone as extremely grave. It became exacerbated following the fresh offensive launched by Armenian troops on four front segments a few days ago. The fighting resulted in huge casualties on both sides. The Azeri president believes it is high time the warring sides came to see reason. In this connection, he especially counts on assistance from the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Shakhray Calls for Draft on Eurasian States Confederation

LD1404165894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1607
GMT 14 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow April 14 TASS—On the eve of the CIS summit due to open on Friday, leader of the Party of Russian Unity and Accord Sergey Shakhray called upon its participants to set up an international working group to draw up a draft agreement to create a confederation of Eurasian states.

Speaking in a radio programme of the international broadcasting company "Mir", Shakhray said, in particular, that it would be expedient to first build within the CIS a confederation of two or three states prepared for closer relations, according to a spokesman for the Russian Party of Unity and Accord. All countries entering the confederation will certainly preserve their political sovereignty, the party leader stressed. Among the main spheres for integration he listed be economics, defence and foreign policy. [sentence as received]

Shakhray pointed to a substantial difference in legislations of former Soviet republics and suggested an effective mechanism to bring in line economic and other laws in the common interests of all states uniting into a confederation. Thus, he proposed drawing up detailed agreements in various spheres of economic activities, which, after being signed and ratified, be granted the status of international treaties superior to national legislation. This mechanism is much more effective than the usual parliamentary procedure, Shakhray believes. Furthermore, the legislative basis thus built would make it possible to surmount the difficulties caused by upset economic ties and to facilitate contacts among millions of people adding their voices to the call for political, economic and spiritual re-integration.

CIS Defense Ministers Favor Eurasian Defense Union

LD1404162594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1549
GMT 14 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow April 14 TASS—Despite current difficulties, all CIS states are moving ahead to establish their national armies, Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev said.

Grachev believes there is a good chance of establishing united armed forces in the Commonwealth of Independent States by the end of the year. He admitted, however, that the pace of the process will largely depend on the economic situation in these states.

Speaking to journalists after a meeting of the CIS defence ministers in Moscow on Thursday, Grachev stressed that the establishment of united armed forces will enable CIS

member-states to begin thinking about an Eurasian defence union, which, according to the minister, will be "much bigger than the Treaty of Collective Security." "Together we will hold defenses, arm ourselves and make military equipment," he said.

The meeting which was attended by 11 CIS defence leaders with the exception of Moldavian [Moldovan] minister focused on documents regulating the work of the secretariat of the collective Security Council and a declaration of states parties to the Treaty of Collective Security which outlines the basic principles of cooperation on security issues. The declaration will be submitted to the CIS leaders for signing on Friday.

Grachev who chaired the meeting said that the CIS presidents will discuss, among other matters, issues connected with additional measures to protect the Tajik-Afghan border and the status of collective peace-keeping forces in Tajikistan.

Turkmen President Opposes Eurasian Union

LD1404175994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1649
GMT 14 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Glazovskaya]

[Text] Moscow April 14 TASS—Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov has severely criticised the idea of establishing a Eurasian union, saying it is "doomed to failure."

Niyazov said the history which has repeatedly made the concept of such a union the subject of many discussions proves this point of view. "This idea has been repeatedly considered and rejected by the Russians as fatal for the nation since 1861," Niyazov added.

It is not hard to predict the fate of another such idea, not a new one, which runs counter to the current processes of national revival in independent states, he said.

At the same time, he warned against dashing from one idea or proposal to another, because each may have a grain of common sense.

Haste and extremes are most dangerous for the Commonwealth of Independent States now, he said.

The Turkmen leader praised Russian-Turkmen relations, saying he considers them as a priority in his policy.

Moldovan President Views CIS Summit, Eurasian Union

LD1404210794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1610
GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Moldovan President Mircea Snegur who has arrived in Moscow to participate in the CIS summit, hoped that the documents which were to be signed would give a new impulse to the development of economic relations between the CIS states.

Snegur spoke in favor of an agreement on mutual settlement in an interview with Interfax. "It is not normal when a country cannot settle its accounts with another country," Snegur stressed.

He also pointed out that Moldova was interested in signing another document concerning the human rights of ethnic minorities within the CIS. Snegur considered it a mutual commitment towards ethnic minorities in the CIS republics. Snegur said he had no worry about this issue in Moldova. He stated that all linguistic problems had been resolved and that Moldova had the most democratic law on citizenship (which automatically grants Moldovan citizenship to everyone living on its territory).

Commenting on Kazakhstan's initiative on the establishment of a Eurasian union, Snegur said he had not had enough time to examine it in detail. "If this means the establishment of a new structure similar to the CIS, it will be better to make the CIS work. The idea of the CIS itself is good, at least we need a single economic space. If Nazarbayev's proposal is a hidden attempt to reestablish the former Soviet Union, Moldova would not be in favor," Snegur stressed.

CIS Customs Services Council Meets in Moscow

LD1404175594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1227 GMT 14 Apr 94

[By BUSINESS-TASS]

[Text] Moscow April 14 TASS—The working out of the common customs legislation for the CIS member states is one of the indispensable factors in the creation of common economic space within the CIS framework, the restoration of the disrupted economic ties, the improvement of the effectiveness of foreign economic activities and the consolidation of the new commonwealth, said Anatoliy Kruglov, chairman of the Russian State Customs Committee, at a session of the CIS Council of Heads of Customs Services which was held here today.

The adoption of the fundamentals of the CIS customs legislation is one of the main items on the agenda. They will become the basis for further activities of CIS customs services.

Kruglov pointed to the topicality of the meeting, which is being held on the eve of the CIS summit in Moscow, and stressed that multilateral agreements on cooperation and mutual assistance in the tackling of customs problems, as well as an agreement of customs services on the struggle against the smuggling of cultural values would be among documents, prepared for signing at tomorrow's summit.

The meeting discussed measures, stemming from the resolution of the Council of Heads of the CIS Member States, adopted at the September conference in Moscow, about the temporary application of the treaty on the creation of an economic alliance, which would form the basis of customs relations between CIS member states.

Participants in the meeting discussed possibilities of harmonizing the customs legislation of the CIS countries, simplifying the customs clearance at the borders and introducing a single form of customs documents for foreign trade customs statistics.

They adopted the conceptual basis for the work of the communication centre of law-enforcement agencies of the CIS customs services and approved regulations on the national communication centre.

Yeltsin Opens CIS Heads of State Meeting in Kremlin

LD1504082594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0635 GMT 15 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 15 Apr—A session of the Council of Heads of CIS States has just opened in the Kremlin. Taking part are the leaders of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarussia [Belarus], Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kirghizia [Kyrgyzstan], Moldavia [Moldova], Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenia [Turkmenistan], Uzbekistan, and Ukraine.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin is chairing the meeting. Opening the session, he expressed the hope that it "will be a new step to strengthen the Commonwealth." The Russian president proposed "in connection with Moldova's wish to become a full member of the Commonwealth, to start to discuss the matter immediately." The heads of CIS states are to discuss a declaration and observation of sovereignty, the territorial integrity and inviolability of the borders of CIS member states; a statute on the CIS defense ministers council; and Ukraine's joining the Economic Union as an associate member. It is planned to examine the question of the duration of the stay, the composition, and the tasks of the Collective Peacekeeping Forces in the Republic of Tajikistan, a convention for those belonging to national, ethnic, linguistic, or religious minorities, and other topics.

Heads of Government Meeting Begins in Moscow

LD1504081294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0532 GMT 15 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Ivan Ivanov and Genadiy Yezhov]

[Text] Moscow, 15 Apr—A session of the Council of Heads of Government of the CIS member states has just started at the President Hotel in Moscow. Taking part are the prime ministers and authorized representatives of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Ukraine.

Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin is chairing the session. The participants in the meeting are to examine some 20 issues on the agenda, which may be

divided up into three sections: the problems of implementing the Treaty on the Creation of an Economic Union; the problems of implementing the instructions of the Council of Heads of State, the Council of Heads of Government, and the Coordination and Consultative Committee; and issues submitted on the initiative of the states and of the statutory and sectoral bodies of the CIS.

Among the issues to be examined at today's session one can pick out those which relate to the promotion of the further integration of the economies of the CIS countries: these are the joining by Ukraine of the economic union with the rights of an associate member, the setting up of a permanently operating body—the Commission of the Economic Union—under the the CIS Coordination and Consultative Committee, and the creation of a free trade zone on the territory of the CIS countries.

CIS Leaders Sign 17 Documents

LD1504090094 Moscow *ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian* 0824 GMT 15 Apr 94

[By *ITAR-TASS* correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 15 Apr—The meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of the CIS member states has ended at the President Hotel in Moscow. The prime ministers and authorized representatives of the 12 countries of the Commonwealth signed 17 documents proposing a deepening of economic integration on the territory of the CIS and solutions to a number of social and military-political problems. All 20 items on the agenda were examined at the session. An *ITAR-TASS* correspondent has learned from informed sources that no fundamental differences arose on any of the items on the agenda.

Of the agreements which were signed, five will be sent for endorsement by the Commonwealth heads of state who, at 1400, will sit down at the conference table, together with the prime ministers, in the President Hotel. Among these documents are, in particular, agreements on Ukraine's joining the economic union with the rights of an associate member and on the establishment of a permanent body—a Commission of the Economic Union—under the CIS Coordination and Consultative Committee.

Moldova Becomes Full CIS Member

LD1504104694 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English* 0955 GMT 15 Apr 94

[By *ITAR-TASS* correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow April 15 TASS—Moldova has joined the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and became its full member, the *ITAR-TASS* correspondent has learned at the close of a session of the CIS Council of the Heads of State in the Kremlin today. On the strength of the session results, the leaders of CIS countries are to sign about 12 documents and other accords.

According to President Leonid Kravchuk of Ukraine, "the CIS countries found common points of view on the matters discussed".

"The most important thing at today's meeting is that good mutual understanding has been reached on all problems discussed," Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze told *ITAR-TASS*.

Shevardnadze said CIS countries' leaders discussed mainly economic problems, free trade principles, economic cooperation committees, and some other issues connected with conflict-ridden areas.

The Georgian leader told journalists that participants in the meeting "did not discuss the question of accession of a number of CIS countries to NATO's partnership-for-peace programme."

Belarus Premier Pessimistic on Outcome of Summit

LD1504124194 Moscow *INTERFAX in English* 1055 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] The Belarussian Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich has pessimistically assessed the outcome of the CIS Premiers session in Moscow on Friday.

One of the things he did not like was that instead of the planned signing of papers on the creation of an inter-state economics committee to coordinate economic development in the CIS states, an "amorphous" body was set up at the Coordinative-Consultative Committee—an economic integration commission with purely consultative functions.

Kebich argues that without an inter-state economic committee the CIS Economic Union will never work.

He told Interfax that a number of Commonwealth states had wished to follow the example of Russia and Belarus and join the ruble zone. According to him, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and possibly Armenia are virtually ready for that.

In his opinion, other Commonwealth countries would like to join but are put off by the need to follow the Belarus example of "harmonizing their legislations with Russian laws." Belarus has taken two years for that, he added.

Shevardnadze, Kravchuk Comment on Summit

LD1504122894 Moscow *Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian* 1100 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Video report on meeting of CIS heads of state and government in Moscow on 15 April, including recorded remarks by Georgian Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze and Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] A routine meeting of CIS heads of state and government is taking place in Moscow today. While a

number of political leaders are again casting doubts on the effectiveness of the CIS, the specific questions of political and economic cooperation which have been put on the agenda of this meeting give grounds for hope that a new step may be taken today toward strengthening the Commonwealth.

[Correspondent Vladimir Perfiliev] The session of the council of Commonwealth heads lasted for two hours today in St. Catherine's Hall in the Great Kremlin Palace. The meeting was chaired by Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Opening the meeting he expressed the hope that this meeting would be a new step toward strengthening the Commonwealth. Of course, journalists knew the preliminary agenda, but the meeting took place behind closed doors and it is better to receive information at first hand. The head of the Republic of Georgia was laconic.

[Shevardnadze] The main thing is that there is good mutual understanding on the problems which are being discussed.

[Perfiliev] But Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk today talked freely with journalists.

[Kravchuk] The main issue for us is to resolve the problem of the Black Sea Fleet.

[Perfiliev] In your view is the CIS working or not?

[Kravchuk] It is working, but there are difficulties in its work. Today Boris Nikolayevich put forward a very good idea which was then further developed: to instruct foreign ministers and others to draw up a concept for integration within the borders, within the framework of the CIS, a concept for further integration. You see that voices are being heard calling for a Eurasian union, but there are not just voices, they have good grounds—good grounds because the CIS is not yet working well.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 15 Apr

LD1504055694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0530 GMT 15 Apr 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow April 15 TASS—ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI on a CIS summit opening in Moscow on Friday:

"Main attention at the summit will be devoted to the implementation of the treaty on an economic union. The discussion will begin with the consideration of a draft agreement on Ukraine's accession to the CIS economic union as an associated member".

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR) believes that the efficiency of the regular CIS summit will be "quite modest" because up to now the CIS has not been able to turn either into a confederation or, still less, into a federation. The CIS has failed to form even a sensible economic or defence union".

At the same time the newspaper admits that if there were no CIS at all, the gap between the ex-Soviet republics and their peoples "would have been immeasurably wider".

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA (INDEPENDENT NEWS-PAPER) maintains that the CIS summit is unlikely to become "the embodiment of a re-integration success". It is not clear so far how serious is the refusal of Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev to attend the summit. The refusal can hardly be accounted for by the "non-diplomatic cold" alone.

The newspaper's opinion is that President Boris Yeltsin of the Russian Federation "in Nazarbayev's absence and with a complex relationship with Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk is unlikely to feel confident presiding over the summit. The lack of support from strong partners will not be made up for by the loyalty of the other summiteers".

PRAVDA briefly reports a CIS summit agenda, pointing out the possibility that the summit will decide to create a permanently functioning body of the economic union—an inter-state economic committee.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA singles out a report that a plane owned by one of U.S. private air companies crossed the Russian border in the area of Kamchatka on April 13. Anti-aircraft systems spotted the plane when it was only approaching the border. The plane was forced to land at one of Russian airports.

After the circumstances of the incident were cleared up, the plane was allowed to refuel and leave Russian territory. Referring to U.S. news media, the newspaper points out that this is illustrative of a "radical change in relations between the two countries".

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA carries an interview with merited test pilot Mark Gallai, Dr. of science (technology), who is chagrined by how the property of the former Soviet Union is being divided. He says this does not look like a "civilised divorce".

"Soviet long-range aviation was deployed all over the country as was prompted by military considerations. If a large number of our strategic bombers turned out to be in Ukraine, this, to my mind, does not at all mean that citizens of Ukraine had a larger input of energies and resources in the development of the aircraft than residents in the other ex-Soviet republics".

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA on the recent bombing of Serbian positions in the area of Gorazde by NATO aircraft:

The West apparently "is not afraid of waking the Russian bear". Otherwise, "NATO would have been careful not to bomb the hope for peace in Yugoslavia".

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIA asserts that no "breakthrough to peace", as was widely publicised by pro-Yeltsin media, was observed: As a matter of fact arms-twisting

tactics were being applied to the Serbs with the mediation of Russian diplomacy..."

PRAVDA runs an interview with Yuriy Vlasov, a member of the State Duma, who comments on the forthcoming signing, scheduled for this month, of a deed of Russia's accession to the Partnership-for- Peace system.

"Such partnership is not for Russia," Vlasov maintains. "NATO does not reduce its armaments but thoroughly modernises them, qualitatively increasing its combat might with our simultaneous weakening devoid of any logic. It is the weakening of Russia, an ultimate weakening, that the United States presses for, not an equal disarmament."

Grachev Warns Ukraine Over Black Sea Fleet Incident*LD1504131794 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 15 Apr 94*

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Russia's Defense Minister Pavel Grachev has stated that Moscow and Kiev have no mutual understanding over the recent incidents in Odessa. Russia will take measures of its own in response to Kiev's actions, Pavel Grachev asserted.

The Russian defense minister also voiced his opinion about replacing Russia's peacekeeping forces with UN units in CIS hotspots. He considers that this cannot be done since the UN does not have the money for this, they are unlikely to find anyone willing to go these hotspots and, furthermore, the CIS heads want to see on their territories only units of the Russian Armed Forces.

Maintains Fleet Russian*LD1504145494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1412 GMT 15 Apr 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Gennadiy Yezhov and Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow, 15 Apr—Since September 1993 Russia has been totally financing the Black Sea Fleet. Thus, the fleet is Russian even with regard to its means of existence, Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev told journalists after a news conference given by the CIS leaders. There can be no question of paying rent in this case, the army general stressed. Moreover, in these conditions Ukraine's security in the Black Sea is being provided at Russia's expense.

Asked by journalists whether there has been any change in the top military circles' attitude to President Bill Clinton's "Partnership for Peace" initiative, Grachev said: "Until very recently I was an active supporter of signing the proposed U.S. concept very quickly. The recent development of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, however, has shown that that the concept proposed by the U.S. President is good only in words. We have gained the impression that our 'partners' are acting behind our backs. I am not afraid to change my opinion if I have been mistaken," the Russian defense minister said in conclusion, "and I have now changed it."

Grachev, Radetsky Hold Talks on Black Sea Fleet*LD1404200994 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 14 Apr 94*

[Passages contained within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] We have received a report from the press center of Russia's Navy which says in part: The Ukrainian mass media have carried a statement from the republic's Foreign Ministry alleging that Admiral Feliks Gromov, commander in chief of the Russian Navy, called off a meeting which the Ukrainian and Russian sides were to hold jointly with the command and officers' corps of the Black Sea Fleet. The press center describes as not in accord with reality the report that representatives of the Russian Government had visited Odessa. In connection with this, the press center of the Russian Navy states authoritatively that the Russian delegation received a refusal from all levels of the Foreign Ministry and the Defence Ministry of Ukraine.

Meanwhile, an extraordinary meeting of the CIS defense ministers has taken place in Moscow. Taking part were the military ministers of the states which signed the treaty on collective security. Ukrainian Defense Minister Vitaliy Radetsky was present as an observer. Quite naturally, journalists asked Radetsky about the rumors that an act of force is being prepared against the brigade of Russian river vessels stationed in Izmail. Here is what he replied:

[Radetsky] "No such action is being prepared. This report is not objective. An end should be put to all of this. We are only giving grounds for the extremists and nationalists to enflame these passions and this does nothing to improve mutual relations between the two neighbors."

The Ukrainian defense minister also commented on his own decree on the resubordination of Division 318.

[Radetsky] "No such division should exist on the territory of Ukraine, particularly in Odessa, if the leaders of this division give the command to use weapons without warning."

After this extraordinary meeting an unofficial meeting took place between Vitaliy Radetsky and Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev which, alas, did not produce any particular results. Here is what Pavel Grachev said:

[Grachev] "It was precisely the Ukrainian authorities which provoked this action. Its opinion is rather different. It says in its defense that the decision was made to use weapons. But no one used any. Therefore, of course, we did not reach mutual agreement. I pointed out to them that their action was unilateral and was thus outside the framework of the Yalta Agreement."

Fail To Reach Agreement*LD1404215994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1934 GMT 14 Apr 94*

[Text] Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev and his Ukrainian counterpart, Vitaliy Radetsky, failed to reach agreement on the Black Sea Fleet issue at their meeting in Moscow Thursday which followed a session of the CIS Defense Ministers' Council.

Commenting on the reasons for the aggravation of the situation, Grachev pointed out that Ukrainian customs officers and border guards had no right to search the hydrographic vessel Cheleken belonging to the Black Sea Fleet. He said that Cheleken's transfer from Odessa to Sevastopol had been necessitated by the fleet's hydrographic needs. Ukrainian marines attempted to prevent the vessel with hydrographic and navigation equipment on board from leaving on April 9.

On the next day, the vessel conservation group stationed in Odessa was made subordinate to Ukraine by an order of the Ukrainian defense minister.

Grachev said he had drawn the attention of his Ukrainian counterpart to the fact that the actions by Ukrainian special purpose units in Odessa were of "unilateral character," laying outside the scope of the two countries' agreements on the Black Sea Fleet.

For his part, Radetsky laid down his point of view of the incidents in Odessa. "In the first place, the indignation of citizens of Odessa and Ukraine was caused by the order to use weapons without warning which had been given on board Cheleken," he told Interfax. The Ukrainian minister pointed out that the fact that the order was given by navy servicemen who were citizens of Ukraine triggered off an outbreak of indignation.

Radetsky said that "as the 318th group (for vessel conservation stationed in Odessa—IF) gave the order to use weapons, I, for my part, made a decision which was adequate to these actions—to dissolve the unit." He said he considered Cheleken's leaving Odessa as "pure piracy."

Radetsky supposed that if he had got in touch with Grachev at that moment, the incident could have been prevented. "However, I could not make contact a whole day," he said.

Commenting on the actions by Black Sea Fleet Commander Eduard Baltin during Cheleken's departure from Odessa, Radetsky said he was amazed at his behavior.

What happened in Odessa is a thing of the past. Other issues have to be resolved such as that of the Black Sea Fleet. So said Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko in an Interfax interview. He arrived in Moscow to attend the CIS summit.

In response to an Interfax question whether the Masandra accord of September 3, 1993 under which the Ukrainian part of the fleet would be handed over to Russia as payment for Russian fuel, Zlenko said that the accord had not been canceled or denounced but that these problems had to be discussed together.

Speaking of the recent visit to Ukraine by a Russian team headed by special envoy Yuriy Dubinin and Russian Navy Commander-in-Chief Feliks Gromov, Zlenko said as the talks started it became obvious that the team wanted to make the Black Sea Fleet a still bigger headache.

Ministers Give Views on Odessa Incident

PM1504152794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Apr 94 p 2

[Nikolay Burbyga report: "Two States' Military Ministers Fail To Reach Agreement in Wake of 'Odessa' Incident"]

[Text] IZVESTIYA has already reported on the incident which involved the hydrographic vessel Cheleken in the Odessa Port's Prakticheskaya Harbor, almost leading to an armed conflict between Ukraine and Russia.

How do the two states' military ministers, who met "one on one" in Moscow, assess the action taken by the military?

Here is the view of Army General Vitaliy Radetsky, Ukrainian defense minister:

"The Odessa Port incident can be called an act of piracy—when people arrive, load up, and then give the order for weapons to be used. Of course, this has angered the citizens of Odessa. It has angered the Ukrainian people, because the Ukrainian people have their own Armed Forces. Just what is going on when there is this kind of disorganization? What is typical is that the soldiers who were ordered to shoot were Ukrainian citizens.... If a division is ordered to use its weapons, then that division is not needed and there is no place for it on Ukrainian territory. That is why I have ordered it to be disbanded."

[Burbyga] What is your relationship with the Russian defense minister, is there any mutual understanding?

[Radetsky] There are issues which, clearly, do not depend on Pavel Sergeyevich. I understand that. This incident would not have happened if we had contacted Grachev and settled the matter over the phone. But I was unable to contact him and resolve the problem for 24 hours. An underling would reply that the minister was out, or was busy, and so forth.... I can get through to the U.S. defense secretary in five minutes. [Radetsky ends]

Here is the view of Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian defense minister:

"The Cheleken hydrographic vessel is part of the Black Sea Fleet, and no customs officers or border guards have the right to inspect what the Black Sea Fleet command is carrying. These actions were provoked by the Ukrainian authorities."

[Burbyga] Why, when the Black Sea Fleet situation was discussed during the "one on one" meeting, were you unable to reach mutual agreement with your colleague Vitaliy Radetsky?

[Grachev] He defended himself during the discussion of the situation involving the hydrographic vessel, claiming that we had wanted to use weapons. But nobody used them. That is why there was no mutual agreement. I pointed out to him that their actions were one-sided and

fell outside the framework of the Yalta agreement on the Black Sea Fleet which was signed by the two heads of state.

Kasatonov Views Ukraine's 'Anti-Russian' Action

LD1404194394 St. Petersburg Fifth Channel Television Network in Russian 1530 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Admiral Kasatonov, who is in St. Petersburg, spoke today at a news conference during which he gave a fairly frank appraisal of the events in Odessa as a state, anti-Russian action.

[Begin Kasatonov recording] What happened is the result of political games, first and foremost. [end recording] [passage omitted]

What happened in Odessa between 8 and 11 April on the territory of the 318th Division can be viewed as a state, anti-Russian action by Ukrainian armed forces. That is how the former commander of the Black Sea Fleet, and now first deputy commander in chief of the Russian Navy, Igor Kasatonov, appraised the Odessa incident today.

[Begin Kasatonov recording] Women and children were taken outside in the middle of the night. They were lined up like in the worst times, 50-odd years ago, when Odessa was occupied. Some were taken away, a child was injured. [end recording]

As Admiral Kasatonov reported at the news conference, the Russian side is now trying to the best of its ability to resolve the conflict. But the Ukraine Fleet command has already issued an ultimatum saying that all sailors and officers who have not taken an oath of allegiance to Ukraine have to leave the territory of Black Sea Fleet units immediately. New commanders from the Ukrainian armed forces have already been appointed to the garrisons in Ochakov, Nikolayev and Izmail.

But nevertheless a solution must be found. Otherwise, as one of the major western politicians said, the military conflict in Bosnia will seem to the world community to be an innocent row between two adolescents who have fallen out in comparison with the possible consequences of the Odessa incident, if two great powers—Russia and Ukraine—do not find mutual understanding.

Urges 'Patient Negotiations'

LD1404124494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1107 GMT 14 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yelena Yugina]

[Text] St. Petersburg April 14 TASS —The only way of easing tension over the Black Sea Fleet is through patient negotiations and sensible compromise solutions, Admiral Igor Kasatonov, deputy commander-in-chief of the Russian Navy said at a press conference in St. Petersburg today.

The admiral noted that "the incident in Odessa can be regarded as an anti-Russian action". One has to recognise that Ukrainian commandos forcibly took over Division 318 of the Black Sea Fleet, disbanded it and are now forcing Russian sailors at gunpoint to take an oath of allegiance to Ukraine.

The general noted that a similar scenario can be used again. Ukraine has already appointed its own commanders for the fleet units stationed in Ismail, Nikolayev and Ochakov.

But the situation in the Crimea as a whole is not in favour of Ukraine's nationalist forces, Kasatonov said. The inhabitants have already made their choice by voting for dual citizenship. The Black Sea Fleet remains Russia's and it is extremely illogical to try and divide it. The command of the Russian Navy cannot agree to such division, Admiral Kasatonov declared.

Military Officials Codemn Odessa Incident

PM1504110394 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 15 Apr 94 p 1

[Sergey Turchenko report: "Disgraced Division"]

[Text] The provocative incident connected with the seizure of the 318th Division of Black Sea Fleet ships by Ukrainian special-purpose troops elicited a harsh reaction both in Russia and in Ukraine. We asked Captain First Rank Valeriy Volodin, chairman of the Black Sea Fleet Officers' Assembly, to comment on what happened.

"Servicemen of the Bolgrad Airborne Brigade of the Ukrainian Armed Forces participated in the seizure of the division of mothballed Black Sea Fleet ships in Odessa during the night of 9-10 April. The Ukrainian servicemen were put on alert status and delivered in seven Ural trucks to the Potemkin Steps in Odessa. They infiltrated the unit's territory through the windows of the checkpoint. The attackers arrested 31 people. The commander of Odessa Military District came to the division, read out to the personnel the Ukrainian defense minister's directive disbanding the unit, and put an ultimatum to the servicemen: take an oath of loyalty to Ukraine. Those who refused, so it followed from the directive, would be instructed to leave for military units on the territory of CIS states. Only four officers and 12 warrant officers among the personnel of the 318th Division agreed to this. In all, approximately 200 servicemen in the unit must come to a decision on service."

Right after the incident a Russian delegation headed by Yuriy Dubinin, ambassador for special assignments, flew to Kiev. It held talks with Borys Tarasyuk, Ukrainian deputy minister of foreign affairs. It also met with Leonid Kravchuk. The results of the talks were not made public.

A meeting of officers of the fleet's chief base and of the garrison's military units was held in Sevastopol yesterday. It adopted a resolution in which the Black Sea Fleet sailors demand an end to provocations by nationalist Ukrainian forces. Bewilderment was expressed at the lack of a reaction to what happened from the presidents of Russia and Ukraine. The officers voiced a total lack of trust in the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense and demanded that tough measures be taken, even including criminal proceedings against the officials who organized the provocation.

Kravchuk Urges Separation of Naval Forces

PM1504160394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Apr 94 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report under general headline "Step Toward Strengthening Commonwealth. Session of CIS Leaders' Council"]

[Text] Describing the session's work, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk noted that the Commonwealth countries had found common views on the matters under discussion.

"The main thing in today's talks between Ukraine and Russia," he continued, "is to make progress on resolving the Black Sea Fleet issue." Kravchuk announced that "agreement was reached today between the two countries' presidents for a meeting of delegations comprising the presidents, prime ministers, foreign ministers, and defense ministers."

In Kravchuk's opinion, "it is necessary to solve the Black Sea Fleet problem stage by stage." He proposes for the first stage to "separate the Russian and Ukrainian naval forces." "The two countries' naval forces should not have the same base—this will always give rise to conflicts," the Ukrainian president said. He believes that the settlement of Russo-Ukrainian problems should begin with the resolution of this issue.

As the second stage Kravchuk proposed setting up in Black Sea waters a naval base which would belong to Ukraine. "The two states would later hold talks on leasing part of the territory of the naval base to Russia." Kravchuk stressed that there is as yet no document which would define such a relationship between the two countries. This is why such a document should be elaborated.

The Ukrainian president is convinced that Russia has the right merely to lease a naval base from Ukraine. As he put it, the two states must work out the international principles for the existence of such naval bases.

Defense Ministry Seizes Black Sea Fleet Unit

LD1504151694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1440 GMT 15 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 15 Apr—A group of eight Ukrainian naval personnel, having enlisted the support of the Ukrainian president's representative in Izmail, today arrived at the Black Sea Fleet's brigade of river cutters. The group was headed by Captain, First Rank, Dmitriy Ukrainets, head of the western area of the Ukrainian Navy's Water Protection Force, the report from the Black Sea Fleet's press center says.

Those who arrived there met with the unit's command and handed over a directive from the Ukrainian Defense Ministry, dated 10 April 1994, stating that the Black Sea Fleet unit is disbanded and on its basis is created the Third Brigade for the Ukrainian Navy's Water Protection Force.

The Ukrainian Navy representatives called on the brigade's command not to use weapons. The Ukrainian side said that those servicemen who wish to serve in the Navy of the Russian Federation will be allowed to leave for Russia.

Thus, the Ukrainian Defense Ministry is not giving up its attempts to use force to resubordinate units of the Black Sea Fleet, crudely violating all the Russian-Ukrainian accords which have been reached concerning the Fleet, the Black Sea Fleet press center's report says.

Yeltsin, Kravchuk Confer on Fleet

LD1504150294 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1400 GMT 15 Apr 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Boris Yeltsin had a meeting with Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk in Moscow today within the framework of the CIS summit, in order to remove the tensions that have developed around the Black Sea Fleet. The two presidents discussed the possibility of resolving the issue in stages. The first stage could be to relocate the fleets to different bases, while the second stage could include setting up a base for Ukrainian naval forces on the Black Sea coast. In Kravchuk's opinion, the main problem is that there are no documents regulating the stationing of foreign naval bases on the territory of Ukraine.

Russia, Ukraine Agree To Divide Fleet

LD1504162494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1618 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow April 15 TASS—The Russian and Ukrainian presidents agreed on Friday to divide the disputed Black Sea Fleet.

Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kravchuk signed an agreement on a way to split the fleet stage-by-stage. The Russian Black Sea Fleet and the Ukrainian Navy, which is to get up to 15-20 per cent of the fleet's ships, will be based separately, the agreements said.

It was specified that the details of the fleet division will be elaborated in 10 days.

First Batch of Nuclear Fuel Reaches Ukraine

LD1404201994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1144 GMT 14 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Boris Krivoshey and Aleksandr Krylovich]

[Text] Moscow, 14 Apr—"The mechanism for putting into effect the measures stipulated in the trilateral declaration of the presidents of Ukraine, Russia and the United States on 14 January has begun working." This was how Grigoriy Karasin, the director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Press and Information Department, commented at a briefing today on reports of the arrival at the Zaporozhye AES [nuclear electric power station], the largest in Europe, of the first batch of fuel installations [toplivye sborki] from Russia as part of compensation for dismantled nuclear warheads.

As the Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman said, all nuclear munitions had, in accordance with the statement by the presidents of the three countries, to be brought from Ukraine to Russia in order for them to be dismantled as rapidly as possible, while Russia for its part had to provide compensation in the form of nuclear fuel installation deliveries to Ukraine to meet the needs of Ukraine's nuclear power sector during the same period of time.

In order to begin the process of compensating Ukraine, Russia had undertaken to supply it over 10 months with fuel installations containing 100 tonnes of low-level enriched [nizkoobogashchenny] uranium for nuclear power stations. A minimum of 200 nuclear warheads off RC-18 and RS-22 missiles will be taken from Ukraine to Russia in the same period to be dismantled.

In the opinion of Russian experts, the first consignment of fuel received by the Zaporozhye AES is enough to power one of the power units for a year, providing Ukraine with 5.5-5.6 billion kilowatt hours of electricity.

Ukraine Compensated for Dismantled Warheads

LD1404161094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1445 GMT 14 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Boris Krivoshey and Aleksandr Krylovich]

[Text] Moscow April 14 TASS—"The mechanism for implementing measures stipulated by the tri-partite statement made by the Presidents of Russia, Ukraine and the U.S. on January 14 of this year has started to work", said a spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry.

Grigoriy Karasin was referring to the arrival of the first shipment of nuclear fuel assemblies from Russia to the Ukrainian Zaporozhye nuclear power plant, the largest

of its kind in Europe. The shipment was sent as compensation for Ukraine's dismantled nuclear warheads.

As the spokesman, in accordance with the three presidents' statement, all nuclear warheads should be transferred from Ukrainian to Russian territory, where they should be dismantled as soon as possible. Russia is then required to compensate Ukraine in the form of fuel assemblies for the latter's nuclear energy programme, also as soon as possible.

In order to begin the process of compensating Ukraine, Russia agreed to provide the fuel assemblies, containing 100 tonnes of lowly-enriched Uranium, within ten months. In the same time period, at least 200 nuclear warheads from RS-18 and RS-22 rockets will be transported from Ukraine to Russia for dismantling.

According to Russian specialists, the first shipment of fuel to the Zaporozhye nuclear power plant is enough to enable one of the plant's five reactors to work for an entire year, which will give Ukraine 5.5 to 6 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity.

Foreign, Defense Ministries Favor NATO Accord

MK1504092094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 15 Apr 94 p 1

[Yelena Tregubova report in the "Parliament" column: "The Russian Federation Foreign Affairs Ministry: The NATO Program Is 'An Instrument To Consolidate the CIS.' Apparently the Deputies Will Not Be Allowed To Ratify Partnership for Peace"]

[Text] The Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry is going to propose to today's session of the CIS heads of state council to include in the final document a description of the NATO Partnership for Peace program as "a mechanism to create a collective security system in Europe." This was announced by Yuriy Ushakov, director of the Foreign Ministry's Department for European Cooperation, at yesterday's hearings in the State Duma on "The NATO Program and the Future of the CIS." He recalled that "whether Russia wants it or not," Ukraine, Moldova, and Georgia have already signed the Partnership documents and their example is soon to be followed by Kazakhstan and Turkmenia [Turkmenistan]. According to the diplomat, "even if this is not quite the 'partnership' Moscow would like to have, the Foreign Affairs Ministry sees only two ways out of this situation for Russia: Take offense, shut itself up, and thus find itself in isolation; or join the program and use its elbows vigorously to uphold Russia's interests" and so prevent NATO's expansion.

Major General Pavel Zolotarev, who spoke at yesterday's hearings on behalf of the Russian Defense Ministry, fully supported such a position by the Foreign Affairs Ministry. "We will never be able to force NATO to dissolve itself anyway," he complained, calling on the house to work to achieve a status desirable for Russia "from within."

CIS Council of Ministers Secretary Leonid Levashov expressed active disagreement with Russia's and the East European countries' signing the Partnership, stating that in that event "NATO allies will appear in Russia's rear."

This opinion is also shared by a considerable part of State Duma deputies. The Party of Russian Unity and Accord has circulated demands on obligatory ratification by parliament of the deed of accession to the Partnership (with an obvious hint for a subsequent refusal by the lower chamber to do so), while the Agrarian Party faction even prepared a corresponding Draft Federal Law. Foreign Affairs Ministry department chief Yuriy Ushakov explained, however, that the signing of the Partnership is "not an agreement or a treaty but a declaration of intent," and therefore it does not call for special parliamentary approval.

Grachev: UN Cannot Replace Russians in CIS Hotspots

LD1504094394 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Russia's peacekeeping forces in the hotspots of the CIS could not be replaced by UN subunits. This opinion was expressed in a RIA interview by Defense Minister Pavel Grachev. The reason he gave for this is that the international community does not have the funds to deploy a new peacekeeping operation. Moreover, there will hardly be many wishing to leave for the conflict zones on the territory of the former USSR, the minister said. He believes that only UN observers could be present in the hotspots of the CIS, the more so as, he believes, it is the Russian Army that the majority of CIS members would like to see as peacekeeper on their territories.

Touching on the presence of Russian subunits within the UN peacekeeping forces in the former Yugoslavia, Pavel Grachev said the United Nations has requested Russia to increase its contingent. However, in view of the latest events in Bosnia, the Defense Ministry will have to discuss this matter in detail, the head of the Russian military said.

Grachev Hesitant on Sending More Troops to Bosnia

LD1504124694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1055 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Russia's Defence Minister Pavel Grachev has declared that although the UN Secretary General has requested the deployment of yet another 300 Russian peacekeepers in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Moscow, in light of the recent developments in former Yugoslavia, should think twice before taking a decision on this issue. However, he admitted in a conversation with journalists on Friday that 200 Russian servicemen are ready to be dispatched to former Yugoslavia.

Grachev is convinced that currently there can be no talk about replacing Russian peacekeepers in "hot spots" across CIS with UN "blue helmets". Firstly, he explained, the UN has no money to send peacekeepers to the CIS. Secondly, one is not likely to find troops willing to be in volatile CIS areas. Thirdly, CIS heads of state want to see only Russian troops and UN observers in Commonwealth trouble spots.

Karasin Voices Concern Over UN Actions in Bosnia

LD1404134194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1210 GMT 14 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Boris Krivoshey and Aleksandr Krylovich]

[Text] Moscow, 14 Apr—The Russian side is particularly concerned by reports that in authorizing the "first use of direct air support in response to the Bosnian Serbs' attack on Gorazde," the UN secretary general's special representative said that this authorization "is valid for two weeks from being given." This was stated at a briefing today by Grigoriy Karasin, director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's press and information department.

"The special representative does not, in our view, have such powers. The Security Council has not empowered him to do this," the Russian diplomat said.

Russia does not support any proposal to simplify the procedure whereby the United Nations requests "air support" from NATO, Grigoriy Karasin said. According to him, the Russian Foreign Ministry could not fail to notice an article published in THE NEW YORK TIMES on Wednesday which maintains that, by bypassing the Security Council, the United Nations has allegedly taken a decision, in essence, "to water down this procedure." "Judging by this report, an obvious attempt is in evidence to downgrade the adoption of such an important decision to the level of not simply Akashi, the UN secretary general's envoy, but even to refer it to the military - to General Bertrand de Lapresle, commander of the UN forces in former Yugoslavia," he remarked.

If the NEW YORK TIMES's allegation is based on reality, then a situation is emerging as a result of which the UN secretary general's control over key decisions concerning the UN forces' activities in former Yugoslavia can be lost and the prestige of the Security Council and of the United Nations in general can be damaged, Grigoriy Karasin stressed.

The NEW YORK TIMES report is causing serious worry in Russia and requires urgent clarifications by the UN Secretariat, the Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Churkin, Serbia's Milosevic Discuss NATO Air Strikes

LD1404161594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1409 GMT 14 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kondrashov]

[Text] Belgrade April 14 TASS—Russian envoy Vitaliy Churkin met with Serb leader Slobodan Milosevic on Thursday to discuss the situation in Bosnia and new Russian initiatives on resolving the crisis, following NATO air strikes on Bosnian Serb positions near Gorazde.

In a brief statement for the press, Churkin refrained from commenting on the substance of the proposals. He said though that they aim at putting an end to hostilities in Bosnia and restoring normal life in the republic, which is a prerequisite for a political settlement of the conflict.

ITAR-TASS learnt from informed sources that the Serb leader and Bosnian Serb officials may meet with Churkin shortly to discuss Russia's initiatives and work out their position.

Kozyrev Cancels Brussels Trip Due to Air Strikes

LD1404160194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1324 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said NATO's recent air strikes against Bosnian Serb forces made him cancel his April 21 trip to Brussels to seal Russia's membership in the North Atlantic alliance's Partnership for Peace program.

Kozyrev told Interfax on Thursday that he had repeatedly said April 21 was only a tentative date for the start of his visit to the Belgian capital. "I'm getting the impression that Russia's partners in the West, especially in NATO, have not yet found correct solutions" concerning Russia's participation in the Partnership for Peace, he said. "We are interested in a much more serious approach and not merely in the discussion of some kind of framework document. The Foreign and Defense Ministries of the Russian Federation have formulated proposals to that effect, and now they are thinking about a more serious format for a relationship with NATO," Kozyrev said. [passage omitted]

Zhirinovskiy Causes 'Outrage' Over Comments on NATO

LD1404132294 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of Russia's Liberal Democrats, cut short his visit to the French city of Strasbourg today. Four days ago he arrived there as a member of a Russian parliamentary delegation for a Council of Europe session. His statement that Russia should retaliate for NATO air strikes on Serb positions in Bosnia by attacking NATO bases in Italy provoked a

negative reaction from the French Foreign Ministry. Apart from that, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy caused outrage by getting involved in an incident with demonstrators protesting against his visit to France.

As a result, the furious leader of Russia's Liberal Democrats vowed never to set foot on French soil again.

Defense Official Denies U.S. Plane Forced To Land

LD1404165794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1604 GMT 14 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Aleksey Berezhkov]

[Text] Moscow April 14 TASS—A Russian air defence official denied on Thursday an ABC report revealing the details of a plane incident in the Russian Far East which, according to the company, has caused a row in Washington.

"The American light plane Cessna-550 was flying along the MK-56- H3 route from Dutch Harbour (Aleutian Islands) to Petropavlovsk Kamchatka on April 13," said Leonid Shirobokov, spokesman for the Russian air defence troops.

"The flight had been officially announced and we were aware of it. Before crossing the Russian state border at 3:58 a.m. Moscow time [2358 GMT] the pilot failed to report. In order to find out the identity of the plane an air defence fighter was ordered to take off and approach the Cessna. After that the American plane reported," he said.

Asked to comment on the ABC report that the Cessna was forced to land, but after refueling was allowed to continue the flight, Shirobokov replied that "no one landed anyone. After having established the identity of the plane our fighter returned to the base, while the Cessna which had communicated with Russian air controllers was allowed to continue the flight and made a safe landing in Petropavlovsk Kamchatka."

Tajik Minister on Politicizing Refugees' Return

LD1404204394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1553 GMT 14 Apr 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: by diplomatic correspondents Igro Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy, and others]

[Text] Tajikistan's leadership "greatly hopes" that in the course of the negotiations with the representatives of the Tajik opposition in Moscow "an additional impetus" will be given to the return of refugees to the republic. "It is impossible to stop this process and its politicizing is inadmissible," Tajikistan's Foreign Minister Rashid Ali-mov, on a visit in Moscow, declared in his interview with Interfax.

He pointed out that "in general, refugees return to their homeland irrespective of the course of the negotiations." "We have been solving this problem for a year already, the department of the UN High Commissioner on Refugees, Russia and Uzbekistan render their backing to us. More than 60 percent of refugees, primarily from Afghanistan have already returned to their homeland," said Alimov.

Lavrov [as received] believes that the delegations must negotiate so that all refugees willing to return to Tajikistan could do this. The Tajik leadership should undertake additional measures in order to ensure security for returning refugees and their reintegration into the political, economic and cultural life of the republic. It is necessary to realize that the process of return of refugees is irreversible. There might be attempts to hinder it but only on the part of the opposition, Alimov stressed.

In his words, some time ago as many as 700 refugees were already prepared to return to Tajikistan from the neighboring Afghanistan but this process was suspended due to a rocket shelling of the border. "Unfortunately, last year we also experienced great difficulties with the repatriation of refugees due to an outbreak of Cholera in the boarder area," Alimov stated.

"If the parties started to exploit the plight of refugees to solve their immediate problems it would be a serious mistake," said Alimov.

Tajikistan Potential Partner in Economic Union

LD1304210894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1752
GMT 13 Apr 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zhrebetsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] Tajikistan will evidently become the first partner of Russia and Belarus in the ruble zone and economic union. The announcement was made on Wednesday by Prime-Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin after talks with his Tajik counterpart Abduljalil Samadov.

According to Samadov, Tajikistan's intentions are confirmed by a preliminary understanding with Russia on the unification of monetary systems as well as the agreement he signed in Moscow after the talks on an 80 Bn ruble Russian loan to his country.

However, Chernomyrdin said that one should not simplify the complex and lengthy process of forming an economic union on which CIS members have agreed, as it is only a framework agreement which provides for the signing of bilateral treaties. The agreement with Belarus, for example, was under work for eight months and required the drafting of over 30 legal documents. This together with the difficulties accompanying the growth of the CIS only go to prove that generally the economic union belongs to the future.

The prime-minister said that Kazakhstan intended to be the first one to sign such an agreement. But now that President Nursultan Nazarbayev has suggested forming a Eurasian union the contents and possibilities of which are so far vague, it is difficult to say anything about his plans concerning the economic union.

The formation of an economic union does not have the purpose of trampling on the sovereignty of any third party, Chernomyrdin declared. He strongly opposed attempts to accuse Russia of having imperial ambitions and trying to subjugate former Soviet republics.

Chernomyrdin stressed that economic integration with Tajikistan will largely depend on the settlement of the political situation in that Central Asian country. IF Note: Talks are currently under way in Moscow between the Tajik government and opposition. According to sources in the Russian Foreign Ministry, the two sides have made considerable progress. They agreed to sign a joint statement expressing readiness to work for a peaceful settlement of the conflict. Russian diplomats think that even though the document is of general nature it can be viewed as an impressive step to normalize the situation in and around Tajikistan.

Russian Land Forces Commander on Talks With Moldova

LD1404212594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1807
GMT 14 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow April 14 TASS—Two years of military talks between Russia and Moldavia [Moldova] have resulted in the signing and implementation of seven bilateral agreements and the withdrawal of three Russian units from Moldavia and disbandment of 18 more located in the republic, Colonel-General Eduard Vorobyov, first deputy commander of the Russian land forces, said.

Speaking at a news conference in Moscow on Thursday, Vorobyov said that currently six new agreements are being prepared for signing, including on the legal status and terms of and procedure for the withdrawal of Russian troops temporarily stationed in Moldavia.

These issues were in the centre of attention at the seven round of talks between the governmental delegations of Russia and Moldavia held in Kishinev [Chisinau] on April 5-6, Vorobyov said.

It is hard to set the time of the withdrawal of the 14th Russian Army from Moldavia because of the absence of progress in resolving the Dniester conflict. The self-proclaimed Dniester Republic has been insisting on special political status for itself.

Another reason for disagreements at the talks is the legislation of the Dniester Republic which contradicts

Moldavian laws. "We are criticised that the talks are moving slowly, and this is fair enough," Vorobyov said.

Asked about the disagreements between the commanders of the 14th Army and the Dniester leaders, Vorobyov stressed that they are not crucial and cannot affect the course of talks.

Both the leaders and the population of the Dniester Republic are interested in Russian military presence in the region, Vorobyov continued. "But we are interested in bringing the armed forces within Russia's borders, so that the troops were gathered together and sorted out," he said.

Minister Discusses Moscow's Position on GATT Entry

LD1504050294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1416 GMT 14 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Myakishev]

[Text] Marrakech (Morocco), 14 April—The successful completion of the Uruguay round of the multilateral trade talks, which went on for over seven years, is a major step towards a greater openness of world markets and services, a reduction in tariff and non-tariff trade restrictions and the establishment of fair regulations and norms for all participants. This was stated by Oleg Davydov, the Russian minister of foreign economic relations, when he spoke today in the Moroccan city of Marrakech at a plenary meeting at the level of ministers of the GATT committee on trade negotiations. He expressed the hope that the principles of free trade and fair competition, which were endorsed by the results of the Uruguay round, will produce increased mutual trade between countries and on this basis a growth of national economies and the world economy as a whole.

Russia, the minister went on to say, is interested in strengthening the multilateral trade system and also assumes that it will be able in the shortest possible time to become an integral part of the system. In striving to join GATT and the World Trade Organization (WTO), whose creation will be announced in Marrakech, Russia is pursuing absolutely specific practical goals and the realistic creation of more favorable conditions for its exports. Full membership of GATT is an essential condition for Russia's integration into the world economy, which is of particular importance for the country. The Russian minister noted that this process will seriously facilitate the speeding and deepening of market reforms in Russia on the basis of the experience amassed in GATT over the decades. In this connection the speaker on behalf of the Russian Government confirmed its firm intention to complete creating a market-oriented open economy at minimum social cost.

Speaking about the Russian economic situation, Oleg Davydov said that in the space of just over two years fundamental changes have taken place in Russia. The state monopoly in foreign trade, which existed for over

70 years, has been dismantled in the process of economic liberalization. Administrative barriers with respect to imports have been lifted, and restrictions on export operations have been significantly decreased. The customs tariff is now being used as a basic instrument of Russian trade policy. The price mechanism and currency regulation have been liberalized to a considerable extent, and large-scale privatization is being implemented.

Russia's aim is to enter the World Trade Organization. A flexible mechanism needs to be worked out to enable the process for its accession into GATT to be transformed into entry into the WTO. Russia's entry into the World Trade Organization will be an important event for others besides Russia. On the basis of a reasonable balance of rights and obligations, the sides reaching agreement will gain in the shape of Russia a capacious market of goods, services and capital. Even now, in the conditions of economic instability caused by the transition from a strict planned system to a liberal market system, we are seeing a great interest in cooperation with Russia, the minister noted. He stressed that the obligations which Russia will assume as a member of the WTO will be an additional guarantee of the stability and predictability of the conditions for doing business with it and for the access of foreign goods to its market. We hope that the Uruguay round was the last which our country observed from the sidelines, the Russian minister of foreign economic relations said.

Kozyrev Holds Talks With ROK Counterpart

LD1404121894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1046 GMT 14 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Nikolay Geronin and Anatoliy Krasnov]

[Text] Moscow April 14 TASS—Talks between Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and his South Korean counterpart Han Sung-chu began in Moscow today.

The first item of the agenda is the preparation of a visit of President of the Republic of Korea Kim Yong-sam to Russia, which is scheduled for early June, Kozyrev said before the beginning of the talks. Speaking about the nuclear problem at the Korean Peninsula, Kozyrev pointed out that "unfortunately, bilateral efforts did not bring the desired results, and, I think, we should expand the range of consultations and consider some other approaches in order to get the problem out of a deadlock by joint efforts."

Han Sung-chu said in his turn that it was the fifth meeting of the Russian and South Korean foreign ministers, which is an indication of good relations between the two countries.

Han Sung-chu will tell Kozyrev about Kim Yong-sam's meetings with Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and China's leader Jiang Zemin during his recent visits to those countries, Kim Sok-kyu, South Korea's ambassador to Russia, told ITAR-TASS. The

Republic of Korea would like to establish close contacts with Russia on the nuclear problem of North Korea, the South Korean ambassador said.

According to Kim Sok-kyu, the ministers will discuss Moscow's proposals on holding an international conference on ensuring the security and the nuclear-free status of the Korean Peninsula. The South Korean Government is highly appreciating the proposal and regarding it as a friendly step of Russia, aimed at settling problems of the Korean Peninsula. How, he continued, the issue is being examined by the U.N. Security Council, and it is worthwhile to wait and see how those problems will be settled within the U.N. framework.

South Korean Foreign Minister Continues Visit to Moscow

Kozyrev Addresses Nuclear Issues

LD1404161394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1430 GMT 14 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Nikolay Geronin and Anatoliy Krasnov]

[Text] Moscow April 14 TASS—"We cannot allow any state to violate the nuclear non-proliferation regime," Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev said on Thursday.

Speaking about the nuclear issue in the Korean peninsula at a press briefing after his talks with his visiting South Korean counterpart Han Sung-chu, Kozyrev said that the demilitarisation of the peninsula is an uncompromising question for Russia.

He said Russia is seeking to normalise the situation, promote security and ensure trust in the region located in proximity to the Russian borders.

"We have agreed with the foreign minister of South Korea to maintain contacts on the entire spectrum of problems. No one rejects Russia's proposal to hold an international conference on security and nuclear-free status of the Korean peninsula," he said.

Kozyrev noted that, like in case with NATO air strikes in Bosnia, the Russian side is not pleased when it is asked to save the situation or vote for some sanctions or decisions adopted at some talks without its participation.

Asked about prospects for imposing sanctions on North Korea over the nuclear problem, the Russian minister stressed "We will not consider measures which do not follow from our direct and substantial participation in all stages of the discussion of respective problems."

Rybkina, Han Discuss Ties, Peninsula

LD1404190994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0855 GMT 14 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Andrei Krylovich and Anatoliy Krasnov]

[Text] Moscow, 14 Apr—South Korea views as "constructive" Russia's proposal to convene a multipartite conference on questions of the security and nuclear-free status of the Korean peninsula. This was stated today by Han Sung-chu, the foreign minister of the Republic of Korea at a meeting with Ivan Rybkina, chairman of the State Duma of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly. The South Korean minister is in Moscow on an official visit.

The Russian initiative provides for the participation in such a conference by both Korean states, Russia, the United States, China, Japan and also the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Together with all the interested parties, the minister said, we will continue to analyze and study this proposal in an active way.

Relations with the Republic of Korea, I. Rybkina noted, are a priority in Russian foreign policy. There is no doubt whatsoever that we are worried by the situation which has developed on the Korean peninsula.

The chairman of the State Duma told the South Korean minister about the work of the Russian Parliament, stressing the importance of interparliamentary ties.

Han Sung-chu conveyed the wish of the Republic of Korea President Kim Yong-sam to address the Russian parliamentarians during the course of his coming visit to Moscow. He invited Ivan Rybkina to pay a visit to South Korea.

Shumeyko Notes Importance of ROK Ties

LD1404205194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1625 GMT 14 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrei Kirillov]

[Text] Moscow April 14 TASS—The relations with South Korea, a country which made rapid progress due to radical economic reforms, are important for Russia, Vladimir Shumeyko, head of the Federation Council, the upper chamber of the Russian parliament, said at the meeting with visiting South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu.

Shumeyko briefed the minister on the activities of the Federation Council.

Han Sung-chu said that Russia and South Korea have no disagreements on international issues, the positions of both states are very close. Russia is an Asian state as well as European and Russia's role in Asia is very important, he noted.

Han Views Results of Visit

LD1404222594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1602 GMT 14 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents]

[Excerpts] Moscow, 14 Apr—Han Sung-chu, foreign minister of the Republic of Korea, today ended the official part of his visit to the Russian capital. He described as "constructive" the Russian proposal to convene a multilateral conference on security problems in the Korean Peninsula, and agreed in general the program for the upcoming visit to Moscow on 1-4 June by President Kim Yong-sam.

Today he held talks with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and met the chairmen of both chambers of the Federal Assembly.

According to Han Sung-chu, South Korea, together with all involved parties, will continue to actively analyze and study the Russian initiative that intends to gather at one table representatives of both Korean states, Russia, the United States, China, Japan, and also the United Nations and the IAEA. [passage omitted]

The head of the Russian foreign relations department said, on the whole, relations between Russia and the Republic of Korea were on a rising trend, as it had been envisaged during President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Seoul, and the upcoming visit by President Kim Yong-sam to Moscow demonstrated this. A solid package of agreements will be prepared for it, inter alia a political document.

Han Sung-chu told journalists it was expected that during the upcoming Russian-South Korean summit issues of bilateral cooperation and international problems, including the situation in northeast Asia and in the Korean Peninsula, would be discussed. The heads of state, he said, will exchange opinions regarding cooperation not only on the bilateral basis, but on the multilateral basis within the framework of international organizations.

Han Sung-chu arrived in Moscow on Wednesday from where he will leave for London on Friday.

Panov Terms Talks 'Very Productive'

LD1504104294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0954 GMT 15 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Nikolay Geronin]

[Text] Moscow April 15 TASS—Russia is completely satisfied with its talks with South Korea's Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu, whose official visit to Moscow was concluded on Friday. Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Panov told ITAR-TASS that the talks had proved very productive.

First of all, Panov said, the two countries have begun laying the groundwork for South Korean President Kim Yong-sam's visit to the Russian capital in June. A package of bilateral documents will be prepared for the Russian-Korean summit meeting, and will include a political document. Moscow and Seoul have also begun preparing a series of bilateral agreements, some of them economic.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's negotiations with Han Sung-chu contained a substantive exchange of opinions concerning the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula. The two sides agreed to maintain close cooperation in that question.

The South Korean delegation positively responded to Russia's proposal to call an international conference on the security and nuclear status of the Korean peninsula. Seoul considers it possible to widen the proposed conference's possible agenda. Another possible topic of discussion for the conference is cooperation in various fields with the sub-region, Aleksandr Panov said.

DPRK Loggers To Work in Eastern Russian Regions

LD1404213894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1855 GMT 14 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Nikolay Geronin and Anatoliy Krasnov]

[Text] Moscow April 14 TASS—Russia is now working out an agreement which would allow North Korea to lumber woods in its eastern regions, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said.

Speaking to journalists after his talks with visiting South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu in Moscow on Thursday, Kozyrev said that the agreement will reflect two aspects—Russia's interest in cooperation with North Korea in lumbering and guarantees of personal safety and human rights for any person staying in the Russian Federation by the highest international standards.

"At the same time we understand the interest and concern of the Republic of Korea because this involves its compatriots," he continued.

"In this connection we discussed the Russian approach towards the enforcement of the rights of our compatriots, including in the countries that have emerged on the territory of the former Soviet Union," he said.

"We speak not about interference in anyone's internal affairs or manifestations of an imperial approach. We speak about our natural interest in enforcing human rights," Kozyrev said.

Russia To Help Resettle DPRK Loggers in ROK
*SK1504015494 Seoul YONHAP in English 0136 GMT
15 Apr 94*

[Text] Moscow, April 14 (YONHAP)—Russia is willing to help South Korea resettle North Korean loggers in Siberia seeking refuge and the governments of the two countries will soon hold working-level discussions on the matter, Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu said Thursday.

Han, who arrived in Russia Wednesday for a three-day visit, told Korean reporters that Moscow had expressed its willingness to cooperate with Seoul in helping North Korean escapees from Siberian logging camps wishing to resettle in South Korea after a meeting with his Russian counterpart Andrey Kozyrev. Some 170 escapees, out of an estimated 25,000 loggers at Pyongyang-run camps in Siberia whose human rights are allegedly violated, are said to be seeking asylum in the South.

Seoul pledged on Wednesday to help them resettle either in the South or in a third country in accordance with international law. The two foreign ministers are reportedly near agreement on the issue.

Han urged Moscow not to repatriate the loggers to North Korea and instead offer them residential rights, and Kozyrev gave his word that no forcible repatriation would occur. Han told reporters he had the impression that Moscow would back Seoul in future action on the matter.

Expressing sympathy for Seoul's interest in the North Korean escapees, Kozyrev said their future lies in their desire to seek freedom, adding that they can live where they like.

Han said he understood Kozyrev's remarks as reflecting a willingness to give the loggers residential rights: Once they had the legal right to stay in Russia, they could make their way to South Korea because foreigners with such rights can travel freely abroad. Han asked that the North Korean loggers be given the status of international refugees by involving the U.N. High Commissioner [UNHC] on refugees while Moscow proposed bilateral discussions to settle the problem, offering to cooperate "If they want to go to South Korea and if the South will accept them". Han said he explained that in order to confirm the wishes of the escapees and refute North Korea's claims of "kidnapping," UNHCR involvement was necessary.

Kozyrev said consideration could be given to regarding the loggers as refugees, but it was not needed. The Russian minister said that no heed should be paid to Pyongyang's threats and that Seoul-Moscow cooperation was sufficient to solve the problem.

Han said that since Moscow was being very cooperative, the U.N. body's involvement may be unnecessary and that the loggers' fate should soon be addressed at the working level.

Russian Foreign Ministry officials said Pyongyang had strongly protested to Moscow for not repatriating the loggers until recently, but nowadays makes no complaints.

Kozyrev said Moscow will continue its logging cooperation with Pyongyang, but promised to include human rights provisions in the renewed contract. North Korea and Russia are currently negotiating renewal of their logging contract that expired at the end of last year, but are making little progress due to Pyongyang's opposition to human rights provisions.

Han and Kozyrev also discussed the North Korean nuclear issue, the Korean seeking Moscow's continued support and the Russian reiterating his country's preference for a nuclear-free Korean peninsula.

Kozyrev, at a joint press conference after the talks, said it was too early to talk about economic sanctions against North Korea and that Russia's involvement was vital.

The two ministers also discussed President Kim Yong-sam's official visit to Russia in early June and agreed to sign various agreements to improve bilateral relations during his stay.

Kolesnikov's China Trip Sparks 'Suspensions'

*PM1404144994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15
Apr 94 p 3*

[Vladimir Skosyrev report: "Chief of General Staff Pays Secret Visit to Beijing"]

[Text] Beijing—Journalists' attempts to discover the substance of the talks between Mikhail Kolesnikov, chief of the Russian Army General Staff, and his Chinese colleagues have been unsuccessful.

Following General Pavel Grachev's trip to Beijing ties between the two neighboring powers' armies have been strengthening. Contacts are developing between neighboring military districts and there has been an exchange of visits by naval vessels. All these are a natural consequence of the normalization of relations between Moscow and Beijing.

But observers in Asian states bordering China and in the West are asking whether the sale of Russian arms to China will pose a threat to the states of South and Southeast Asia. After all, China has some outstanding territorial problems with some of them.

Doubts have arisen above all because many aspects of the military-technical ties between China and Russia have been cloaked in secrecy. For instance, a Western colleague showed me the text of the agreement on cooperation between the two defense ministers. One article in it envisages that Russia will send its specialists to China to overhaul arms and to train Chinese personnel. Is this article present in the agreement?

By avoiding the press General Kolesnikov has essentially turned his official visit into a semisecret meeting, providing grounds for new suspicions in Asian capitals.

5-Km Zone Set Up Along Russian-Chinese Border

LD1404171694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1055 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] A five-kilometer zone with a special entry regime will pass along the Russian-Chinese border on the territory of the Jewish autonomous region along the Russian bank of the Amur River.

From now on economic, and other activities in the border zone will be done only with the consent of border-guard troops. The entry and exit of the zone will only be allowed when residence permits are shown. Residents of other territories will have to get special documents permitting their entry. Foreigners are to be registered at local police stations.

The toughened measures are linked with frequent cases of border violations and the deterioration of the criminal situation in the border zone.

Russia-SRV Commission Meets in Hanoi

LD1504110594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0944 GMT 15 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Blagov]

[Text] Hanoi April 15 TASS—The third session of the Russo-Vietnamese intergovernmental commission for commercial, economic, scientific and technological cooperation was rounded off here today by the signing of an agreement on cooperation in the sphere of communications and of a bilateral protocol.

Taking part in the work of the session was a Russian delegation led by Vice-Premier Yuriy Yarov. The sides noted during the final plenary meeting that it was necessary to promote bilateral economic relations on the basis of a new mechanism. They agreed to hold the fourth session of the intergovernmental commission in Moscow in the first quarter of 1995.

Interviewed by ITAR-TASS, Yarov highly assessed the Hanoi negotiations which focused particularly on problems linked with the forthcoming visit of Vietnamese Premier Vo Van Kiet to Russia. "We hope," the Russian vice-premier noted, "that the visit of the head of the Vietnamese Government to Moscow, scheduled for June, will be fruitful and will contribute to the development of mutually advantageous economic cooperation. We do not intend to give up our positions on the Vietnamese market, particularly as regards the supply of machinery and equipment," Yarov said.

Commenting on the results of the talks, the head of the Russian delegation told a press conference here today that Russia and Vietnam were now exerting joint efforts to do away with the pause that had appeared in their bilateral relations. "We have devoted special attention to concrete areas of cooperation, for instance, in the sphere of energetics, oil extraction and agriculture," he stressed.

The Russian side attaches great importance to the establishment of direct contacts between the regions of Russia and the Vietnamese partners. This is why the Russian delegation included Bashkortostan President Rakhimov and head of the Krasnoyarsk territorial administration Zubov.

The Russian Government delegation today flew to the city of Da Nang in central Vietnam.

Political Issues

Yeltsin To Convene Civic Accord Assembly 28 Apr

LD1404193394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1720 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow April 14 TASS—The press service of Russian President Boris Yeltsin released on Thursday the following text of his statement:

"1. With a view to preparing an agreement on reaching civic accord in Russia and taking into account the public opinion, the working group preparing the agreement on reaching civic accord in Russia shall consider the proposals made by the Federation Council and the State Duma of the Federal Assembly and the government of the Russian Federation and submit by April 20, 1994 proposals on its finalisation and the procedure for signing and implementing it.

"2. Head of the Administration of the President of the Russian Federation Sergey A. Filatov shall organise a working meeting of the participants in the agreement on reaching civic accord in Russia to initial the text of the agreement and consider the procedure for its signing and implementation.

"3. To convene an assembly of civic accord to sign the agreement on reaching civic accord in Russia an assembly in the Kremlin on April 28, 1994."

Zhirinovskiy Assails West, Predicts Russian War

LD1504111394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1019 GMT 15 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow, 15 Apr—Russia must not join the Council of Europe, and it has no need to cooperate with NATO. This was the theme of a news conference given today by Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR], in the State Duma. In a 40-minute address, he summed up his impressions of his trip to Strasbourg as a member of a Russian parliamentary delegation.

In the presence of a host of media representatives, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy lashed out at the West without being too fussy over his language. If Russia joined the Council of Europe, "a struggle will be waged against us for our money," the LDPR leader claimed. Nor should Russia, in his view, cooperate with NATO. "We are glad that the country's political leadership has taken a correct step in that direction. We support the president's decision not to sign the 'Partnership for Peace' program," he declared.

Speaking in his usual manner, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy vented his wrath on "the Zionists and Americans." The French came in for some of his anger too for not having

allowed him to travel outside Strasbourg. So did the Turks, "who hate all Slavs," and also the British, who "plundered the world first of all, yet have now become conservative, protecting their plunder, and have foisted their language on the whole world."

Apart from the Third World War, which has, he claimed, already begun in Yugoslavia, the LDPR leader also predicted an imminent civil war in Russia, of which "those who are running the country today will be guilty."

Defends Kaliningrad Status

WS1404150394 Kaliningrad KALININGRADSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 1 Apr 94 p 1

[Unattributed report under the "On Behalf of LDPR" rubric: "This Is What Zhirinovskiy Thinks..."]

[Text] The editorial board has received a letter from the Russian Liberal Democratic Party [LDPR] signed by its chairman V. Zhirinovskiy and A. Moiseyev, deputy of the State Duma of the Russian Federation, concerning the active debate on the future development of Kaliningrad Oblast among Russian and foreign circles. The letter states that no Russian can remain indifferent toward the oblast's future, because the latter is responsible for Russia's geopolitical situation, the reliability of its borders, and the stability of economic relations. The LDPR proceeds from the fact that the fate of Kaliningrad is a historical reality that emerged after World War II. Kaliningrad is part of Russia and it will remain so forever.

However, some people are currently trying to distort the official party stand by speaking about LDPR's alleged readiness to make concessions to other states in the Kaliningrad issue. This is an open fraud. Its aim is obvious—to force the constituents to turn away from the party and degrade the importance of its victory in the 1993 parliamentary elections. Residents of Kaliningrad and its oblast must know that the LDPR speaks out for the immediate resolution of the regional economic problems, the buildup of the military and trade ports, the development of relations with foreign partners, and the surmounting of transit difficulties through the adjacent territory.

At the same time, the party notes that any economic reforms and experiments are senseless if they infringe upon the Russians' rights, who are turned into second-rate people attending to rich foreigners. Such reforms are doomed, and the LDPR will offer a tough resistance to them.

Enjoying support from millions of its constituents, the LDPR is ready to work in the interests of the residents of Kaliningrad and its oblast.

Fedorov Outlines Liberal-Democratic Union Platform

LD1404194994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1324 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Leader of the Liberal-Democratic Union of December 12 (LDU) in parliament and former finance minister Boris Fedorov speaking in Moscow has outlined LDU's priorities. He said LDU must set sensible tasks, avoid giving hollow promises, wage a resolute campaign for national interests and move to prosperity by transforming the country's political and economic systems. He said LDU was a group of 26 independent deputies representing different parts of the country rather than being "an elitist Moscow club".

One other LDU leader Irina Khakamada said the faction's name was intended to help form its political image and reflect its determination to merge social and market reforms with a thrust towards the individual rather than talking about the abstract models of a so-called market economy.

On the political front, LDU is opposed to the hardliners' call for an early presidential election and prepared instead to back up the idea of a coalition government provided it is committed to further market reforms, democracy and a socially oriented state. LDU will not oppose the government while there is a chance for further constructive reforms, but any government without a social basis and majority in parliament is doomed, its platform says.

Among its potential allies, the group has named the Gaydar-led Russia's Choice Party and the Yavlinskiy-led faction though it is ready to cooperate with Women of Russia group and to hold an open dialogue with all pro-democracy movements.

At the same time, it says the name of the Zhirinovskiy-led Liberal Democratic Party does not reflect the substance and activity of the LDP leadership which brings nothing but disgrace to Russia. LDU says some support that LDP enjoys on the ground is evidence of a power crisis and lack of coherent political priorities in the country.

On the economic front, LDU's priorities include financial stabilization, a 1-3 percent inflation rate in 1994, a sensible budget, a one-off 15-25 percent tax cut to spur up business activity, reduction of the amount and types of taxation and government support for state companies yielding to modernization and work efficiency.

In foreign policy, LDU calls for a G-8 with Russian participation and Russia's reunification with Belarus and Ukraine following referendums there. However, LDU is opposed to what it calls "an absurd unification of monetary systems". Fedorov attacked the recent monetary merger between Moscow and Minsk calling the decision incompetent. He said economic integration must follow trade and customs unions as it was done in Western Europe but not start with a monetary union. In

his view, unification must take place on all fronts with clear understanding of the purpose and price to be paid for it.

'Party of Majority' Against Civic Accord

LD1404203594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1531 GMT 14 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yekaterina Zhilyakova]

[Text] Moscow April 14 TASS—The Party of the Majority set up two months ago will not sign the draft memorandum on civic peace and accord, party leader Vyacheslav Grechaninov told a news conference in Moscow on Thursday. Grechaninov said that the authors of the document place it even "higher than the constitution." Additionally, it restricts the rights of parties, public associations and subjects of the federation. He strongly opposed the provisions rejecting political campaigning for elections to federal bodies of power and banning trade unions from organising strikes. The draft agreement also obliges the subjects of the federation to pledge not to change their status for two years.

Anatoliy Panfilov, leader of the Constructive Ecological Movement of Russia (KEDR), who also attended the news conference, said that his movement supports the position of the Party of the Majority and has no intention of signing the agreement. The Party of the Majority is currently negotiating with Panfilov's movement the possibility of joining forces to set up a united bloc for the next elections. At the same time, Grechaninov said that his party is ready to take part in the preparation of a "more serious" memorandum of accord.

'People's Alliance' Council Members Outline Platform

LD1404221094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1501 GMT 14 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Ivanova]

[Text] Moscow, 14 Apr—Sergey Glazyev, Andrey Golovin, Oleg Rumyantsev, Aleksandr Tsipko, Veniamin Sokolov and other politicians have announced the formation of a Russian movement, the People's Alliance [Narodnyy Alyans]. Members of the founding council have called upon their supporters in the provinces of the Russian Federation to start forming local structures of the movement.

Sergey Glazyev, one of the leaders of the People's Alliance and the chairman of the State Duma committee for economic policy, told an ITAR-TASS correspondent: "We are calling for a union, so that we may avert the final collapse of the Russian state, avert sedition, disintegration of the economy, moral and spiritual degradation."

He also said that the founders of the movement proceeded from the fact that "historically Russia developed

as a multinational society within a single state which belongs equally to all peoples of our country, and the peoples of the former USSR retain their right to uniting in different ways on a voluntary basis, including political unification."

The statement of the People's Alliance says that a union of this kind can "prevent a relapse into authoritarianism." "Forming the policy and strategy of national reconciliation" was named as the main aim of the movement. It was stressed that the new sociopolitical movement "supports solely those reforms which stimulate the growth of production and strengthen the positions of Russian producers both in their own country and on the world market."

According to Sergey Glazyev, the People's Alliance regards establishing a true democracy in Russia as its aim. "At the same time, we are convinced that democracy must grow on a national soil, help strengthen people's dignity and teach them a conscious attitude to politics," he said.

The founders of the movement insist that traditions of parliamentarism should be carried further and reinforced, which, in their opinion, is in agreement with "Russia's traditions of popular assemblies [veche] and contributes to respect for the constitutional system, law and legislative activity."

Gorbachev Rejects Discussion of 'Palace Coup'

PM1504082394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Apr 94 p 2

[Leonid Nikitinskiy report: "Gorbachev Satisfied With His Position"]

[Text] Mikhail Gorbachev assembled a small group of journalists at his foundation to mark the 100th birthday of Nikita Sergeyevich Khrushchev. Khrushchev, in the estimation of Gorbachev, who began his party career under him, was an inconsistent and limited reformer, but nonetheless sincerely attempted to liberalize the totalitarian Stalinist system. From a subjective angle, it is possible to discern power struggle motives in his actions, but his speech against Stalin soon after the latter's death while his henchmen were still alive demanded great courage on Khrushchev's part, in its consequences "exposed the personality cult," and proved to be far more significant than simply intrigue.

This conversation was interesting to journalists in the light of the biography of Gorbachev himself, since he quickly passed from the "palace coup" of 1964 to 1991, when via similar apparatus means Gorbachev himself was twice removed from power: the first time in August—unsuccessfully, the second, in December—successfully. The ex-USSR president, who is now unlikely to be brought as a witness in the "SCSE [State Committee for the State of Emergency] case," imparted many details of the events, emphasizing the role of Boris Yeltsin in their development. It will soon be possible to

read about this in Gorbachev's memoirs, which he has recently sent to his publishers.

In their questions the journalists tried to prompt their interlocutor further to project the recurring model of the "palace coup" onto the present day, onto the potential threat of the removal of President Yeltsin from real power. However, Mikhail Gorbachev did not wish to delve into even a theoretical analysis of this possibility. For all his undisguised negative attitude toward Yeltsin, Gorbachev does not allow himself to entertain the idea of his removal from power by other than legal means, through elections, which, however, in his opinion, could take place before 1996.

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA Appeals for Support

PM1504104794 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 15 Apr 94 p 4

[Editorial announcement: "We Must Survive Along With You!"]

[Text] So, today's issue of SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA is being produced with the funds collected by readers. But debts remain—250 million rubles [R] to the "Pressa" Publishing House and many millions to paper combines, printing centers, and partners in the newspaper's delivery. How did these debts arise?

It is known that production of SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA was halted for two and one-half months during October-December 1993 because of the actions of the former Ministry of the Press and Information, which were subsequently deemed illegal in court. The editorial office incurred tremendous losses as a result of the abortive subscription campaign for the first half of 1994 and was deprived of the revenue from advertising and retail sales—in all, by the end of 1993 the loss exceeded R1.3 billion. In addition, the editorial office's current account was frozen for a long time by a Central Bank directive, which the Superior Court of Arbitration deemed invalid—this was how the chain of debts and unjustified sanctions in the form of fines arose.

At the same time we know that our readers have a very great need for the newspaper—it has largely restored its readership in a short time: The number of subscribers has topped 270,000, and the total circulation is approaching half a million. A further 18,000 subscribers have joined us in April. But it is becoming increasingly costly to produce the newspaper. It now costs R25-30 million to produce a single issue. This is only at present! What is to be done?! Let us consult one another.

Deputy Minister on Far North's Problems

PM1404134994 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 12 Apr 94 p 2

[Interview with Aleksandr Pozdnyakov, deputy minister for nationalities affairs and regional policy, by Oleg

Bondarenko; place and date not given: "How to Warm Up the Permafrost Region?")

[Text] Having been until recently deputy chairman of the State Committee for the Socioeconomic Development of the North [Goskomsever], Aleksandr Pozdnyakov was directly responsible for the normal functioning of the most remote and inaccessible parts of our country. There had always been plenty of problems there even in quiet times, but now there are all the more. During the recent government reorganization the problems for which the Goskomsever had been responsible were transferred to the new Russian Federation Ministry for Nationalities Affairs and Regional Policy, where Pozdnyakov is deputy minister.

"Does this mean that concern for northerners is taking more and more of a back seat?" I asked Aleksandr Mikhaylovich.

[Pozdnyakov] Our former state committee was tasked above all with making maximum use of the brief summer shipping season to provide timely shipments of prime necessities to remote areas and to ensure that people could work uninterrupted during the long winter period. If there is any disorganization in this area, it will not be possible to avoid a major disaster—after all, for most of the year these areas are cut off from the rest of Russia.

The Goskomsever also considered it its duty to protect before the federal authorities the interests of all those who find themselves remote from the "mainland." But it protected them on the basis of its actual abilities and in its own way—most often it asked for additional funds to be allocated for certain measures. Problems were driven underground and covered up by additional spending, instead of eradicating the root cause that had given rise to them in the first place.

With our broad powers within the ministry today we are entirely capable of investigating all problems of territorial development and of resolving them by combining both local and federal interests. The first major discussion on our problems was conducted at a recent conference in Tambov.

Taking part in it were representatives of major interregional associations covering the historically established economic areas of the country. These include the center of Russia, the Northwest, the Volga, the North Caucasus, the Urals, Siberia, and the Far East. Within the framework of the associations they set up several years ago, republics, krais, oblasts, and autonomous okrugs have already amassed experience of cooperation, but the associations' relationships among themselves and with the federal authorities have still not been properly organized. The conference distributed the spheres of powers for each structure.

The government has not imposed its will on Federation components, but has consulted with them about how to be more successful in resolving the tasks of the country's

further economic development. As a result, all the conference participants signed a document designed to avoid in the future the disappointing confrontation that has sometimes occurred between Moscow and a territory.

[Bondarenko] Some time ago the major Siberian Accord association was accused of having certain separatist tendencies. To what extent was this true?

[Pozdnyakov] I am well acquainted with the Siberians and I can assure you that they had no intention to engage in any kind of isolationism. The fact that statements by some of their representatives have voiced alarm and resentment about the lack of attention paid to their vital needs by the center is merely a reflection of reality. The unduly temperamental tone of the statements is also entirely explicable, and, indeed, it did have an effect. One way or another, both sides' positions have converged to a considerable extent.

[Bondarenko] How do you view the attempt by the leaders of the Khanty-Mansiysk and Yamalo-Nenetsk Okrugs to secede [obosobitsya] from Tyumen Oblast, of which they were part?

[Pozdnyakov] They can, of course, be understood. After all, the [oblast] center is in the south of the oblast, and the okrugs are in the permafrost region. Even though working and living conditions in the North are immeasurably more difficult, the lion's share of the okrugs' revenue from oil and gas previously went, apart from the capital, to Tyumen. But we are talking about natural resources—a national asset rather than just the property of the extraction workers. It would hardly be right to close our eyes and pretend that there is no problem. A well-judged balance of interests should be maintained everywhere.

Military Issues

Story on Tiny Neutron Bomb Denied

PM1304172194

[Editorial Report] Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 April 1994 carries on page 2 under the headline "Russia Has a Neutron Bomb the Size of a Small Ball, British TV Reporters Claim" a 250-word REUTERS report, which begins as follows: "Journalists from Britain's Channel 4 Television have carried out an investigation and concluded that Russian scientists have invented a miniature neutron bomb the size of a baseball. The device was developed using so-called 'red mercury.'" The report goes on to give further details and concludes with the following note "from the Editorial Office":

"IZVESTIYA's correspondent Nikolay Burbyga turned for an explanation to ministries and departments involved with armaments. "Needless to say, we have some secret developments [razrabotki], the Russian Defense Ministry reported, 'but what the British TV

reporters are claiming is completely absurd—it is shameful to even comment on it.

"Equally categorical answers were obtained at the Kurchatov Institute. Specialists connected with future scientific arms developments claimed: 'People have been talking about "red mercury" for a long time. But nobody has even seen it or "touched" it, because substances with these characteristics simply do not exist in nature....'"

Moscow ITAR-TASS in English at 0956 GMT on 15 April, in a *Mirnyy* (Arkhangelsk region)-dated report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin, adds: "Reports about a 'new Russian miniature bomb', allegedly developed with the use of 'red mercury', are absolutely groundless," ITAR-TASS was told today by Lieutenant-General Yuriy Zhuravlev, chief of the state testing ground of the Russian Strategic Missile Forces. "Russia is not making or testing new types of nuclear weapons," he stressed.

Official Denies Work on Biological Weapons

LD1404175394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1610 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Grigoriy Karasin, an official representative of the Russian Foreign Ministry, dismissed on Thursday allegations by foreign media that Russia continues to work on the creation of biological weapons. Such publications "are clearly aimed at destroying mutual trust, and at aggravating relations between the signatories of the Convention banning biological weapons," he said at a briefing in Moscow.

Karasin noted that Russia as legal successor of the USSR took all responsibility for the implementation of the 1972 Convention, including the functions of a guarantor of this document. Under the trilateral agreements between Russia, USA and Great Britain, mutual visits to biological facilities and exchange of information continue between the sides.

Karasin also said that Russia is in favor of the creation of a control mechanism for the implementation of the Convention. A special conference on this issue will be convened in Geneva in September.

Nuclear Sub Dismantling Facilities Needed

PM1504103594 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 8 Apr 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast: Video report by Boris Kostenko; footage attributed to "Tonis" TV Company and captioned "Ukraine"]

[Text] [Kostenko] The problem of dismantling nuclear submarines which have come to the end of their service life is much more complex and dangerous than might appear at first sight. Despite a government decision dated 31 August 1992, funding of the construction in Nikolayev of a technical floating dock for dismantling submarines has been suspended. And that despite the

fact that the facility is more than 60 percent finished. Construction of two specialized docks for overhauling nuclear reactors at Kherson shipyards has also been put on ice.

At present Russia has no docks where nuclear submarines can be dismantled and nuclear reactors removed. More than 200 submarines are waiting in the North and the Far East. The spent nuclear fuel has not even been removed yet from more than one-third of them. Despite the fact that the reactors have been shut down, they must be constantly cooled. An accident at a submarine graveyard could produce another Chernobyl.

Some time ago construction of two of the urgently needed docks was started at Ukrainian shipyards. One is 30 percent ready, the other is already 65 percent ready. Contractors are owed 12 billion rubles. And yet, up to 80 percent of the appropriations set aside by the government is due to return to Russia, to the self-same contractors.

Perhaps the necessary resources should now be made available not from funds for disarmament purposes, but from funds set aside for environmental protection. Otherwise expenditure may have to be incurred to deal with an emergency situation, or even a catastrophe.

Economic Issues

Draft 1994 Budget Aims at Moderate Inflation

LD1504123994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1001 GMT 15 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow April 15 TASS—During the drafting of the 1994 budget the Russian Government chose an intermediate way between a tough fiscal policy, which could help bring inflation down to 5 per cent a month, but would be too painful, and the policy of pumping money into the national economy, which could lead to a 50 per cent inflation. Acting Minister of Finance Sergey Dubinin said at the State Duma today, presenting the draft law "On the Federal Budget for 1994". He said that budget revenues were planned to reach 120.7 trillion roubles. The deficit will be 62.4 trillion roubles and the spendings will amount to 183.1 trillion.

Inflation continues to be "enemy No. 1", he continued. Now it is planned to remain on the level of 10 per cent a month and will be brought down to 7 per cent by the end of the year. Budget deficit for 1994 is planned to be 8 to 9 per cent of the gross domestic product. Part of the deficit—about 6 per cent of the gross domestic product—will be covered with the help of credits of the Central Bank.

Speaking about budget revenues, Dubinin pointed out that a dramatic increase in tax collecting can hardly be expected. Last year taxes accounted to 10 per cent of the

gross domestic product for the federal budget and 14 per cent for regional budgets, while this year tax collecting is going to amount to 12 per cent of gross domestic product. The speaker stressed that tough measures against tax evaders are expected to be taken.

There is one more complicated problem: In what way should the money, that came from privatization, be spent? The government is facing a difficult choice: Should it channel the privatization money to the federal budget, or should it leave it with the enterprises, so that they will be able to invest it? A final decision on that problem has not yet been taken.

According to Dubinin, discussion is going on over the problem of what part of the federal budget should be channelled to subjects of the Federation. Now 22 per cent of the value added tax will be spent for that purpose.

Speaking about the distribution of budget spendings, Dubinin said that 48.5 trillion roubles would be spent on defence and law-enforcement agencies, 48.1 trillion—on state support for individual branches of the national economy, 24.5 trillion—on assistance to the regions, 16.8 trillion—on the federal debt servicing and 12.2 trillion—on social programmes.

Foreign Investments Tax Not Discussed by Government

LD1404203194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1528 GMT 14 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[Text] Moscow April 14 TASS—"The government has not considered the issue of imposing a tax upon foreign investments", Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets told TASS on Thursday. Soskovets dismissed reports by some mass media that the government was drafting a document to raise import duties. He noted, however, that following the recent rise in import tariffs, "a commission will be set up to specify these issues".

The first deputy prime minister believes the draft federal budget for 1994, which was submitted by the government to the State Duma, should be taken as a basis. He is confident that this document provides a most thorough analysis of all items of revenues and expenditures. The draft budget "is to be finalized and approved within the next few weeks", Soskovets reported. "For the time being, the government has to manage with the quarter budget", he said. The first vice-premier declined to give any comments as concerns wage indexation for state-subsidized industries in the second quarter of 1994. He admitted, however, that the government did not have the necessary resources.

Ministry Clarifies Pension Indexation Provisions

PM1504115794 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 15 Apr 94 p 1

[Undated statement by the Russian Social Protection Ministry under the "Officially" rubric: "On Pension Indexation and Compensation"]

[Text] In connection with the appearance in certain mass media of a report about the Russian Federation Pension Fund's so-called "denial" regarding the question of pension indexation from 1 May this year, the Russian Social Protection Ministry considers it necessary to state the following.

The Russian Federation Pension Fund is a financial and credit institution, therefore the explanation and interpretation of pension legislation does not come within this organ's terms of reference. All necessary information on questions of applying existing pension legislation, as well as on normative acts being drafted in this sphere, is given by the Russian Federation Ministry for the Social Protection of the Population.

The Russian Social Protection Ministry confirms the information given at a press conference 9 April 1994 that from 1 May this year the implementation of the Russian Federation president's edict No. 2121 of 10 December 1993 "On Increasing Previously Fixed Labor Pensions," begun 1 April this year, will be continued.

Under this edict earnings before 1 January 1993 on which pensions are calculated are subject to an 80-percent indexation (increase). This measure is intended to rectify the miscalculations made when determining the size of the coefficients used to "index-link" past earnings.

This provision is being brought into effect in three stages from April through June 1994: from 1 April in relation to pensions fixed up to and including 1981; from 1 May in relation to pensions fixed in 1982-1987; and from 1 June in relation to pensions fixed in 1988-1992.

From 1 May this year there will be another indexation because of the increase in prices for consumer goods and services. The actual level of indexation is being determined at the moment. In addition it is intended to retain the existing compensation of 19,700 rubles payable in addition to a pension.

Indexation and retained compensation because of price increases will be payable over and above the level of a pension increased under the Russian Federation president's edict of 10 December 1993.

[Signed] Russian Social Protection Ministry Press Service

In addition, the ministry clarified that the maximum pension is three times the minimum pension, not counting compensation.

'Extraordinary' Situation in Russian Energy Supply

LD1404165994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1058
GMT 14 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Ivantsov]

[Text] Moscow April 14 TASS—An extraordinary situation has formed with power supply in Russia. Strategic reserves of masout and coal dwindle. Anatoliy Dyakov, president of the Russian joint-stock company "The Russian Power Grid", corresponding member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, told ITAR-TASS. The overspending of these kinds of fuel at power stations made up over 300 thousand tonnes in March and over 116 thousand tonnes in April.

The emergency situation is largely caused by huge non-payments the power-generating industry, running into 3,600 billion roubles. Being short of funds, the branch ran up a debt to fuel suppliers, owing about one thousand billion roubles for gas. Because of this, gas suppliers broke the agreement to deliver gas to power stations even if there is non-payment. Gas supplies dropped by over 600 million cubic metres in March. This resulted in the stoppage of a number of large power plants at thermal power stations. Half their number use gas for fuel. The situation has aggravated further because of the drop by 1,250 million kilowatt-hours of electricity at nuclear power plants, the drop that has not been sanctioned by "The Russian Power Grid" joint-stock company. Managers of nuclear power plants explain this by the lack of fuel.

Dyakov said these factors explain the rapid dwindling of stocks of fuel at power stations. Not even the use of strategic reserves can fully compensate for gas shortages, he said. Due to this it is necessary to cut fuel supply to industrial enterprises in the Transbaikalia, Siberia and Transcaucasia.

Statistics Committee Data for Jan-Mar

PM1404103794 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Apr 94 First Edition p 2

["Express Analysis" report by A. Yevgenyev: "Inflation Curbed. But..."]

[Text] The State Committee for Statistics has prepared some useful data illustrative of the socioeconomic situation in Russia in January-March. Compared with the corresponding period last year the gross domestic product is 17 percent down. The decline in industry is worsening, with production volume in physical terms standing at 75.1 percent of last year's level, the figures for the specific months being 76.9 percent in January, 75.9 in February, and 72.6 in March.

According to State Committee for Statistics experts, the structural nature of the production decline became evident in the first quarter. This was manifested by the fact that the scale of it is increasingly determined by effective

demand, not by resource potential. As a result, sectors reacted differently to the developing market situation. Whereas gas extraction virtually remained at last year's level, 9-15 percent less oil and coal was extracted. At the same time, production of many of the basic types of machine-building products and a number of light industry goods almost halved, chemical production fell by 25-30 percent, and ferrous metallurgy production fell by 20-35 percent. Food production fell by 10-20 percent.

Of the 406 most important types of products included in the special report, 26 saw an increase in production volume and 373 items saw a decrease. Individual production processes were halted at 5,000 enterprises. But whereas at the beginning of the last year this was mainly due to lack of raw materials, supplies, and fuel, the main reason now is different—problems marketing products (more than 60 percent of all losses).

Unfortunately, there is a mounting crisis in the sectors producing consumer goods. Garment production has been particularly badly hit: Production of overcoats, short coats, and skirts fell by 61-68 percent; production of raincoats and jackets fell by 53-58 percent, and production of pants and suits fell by 41-42 percent. Fewer goods were produced for private farms, subsidiary plots, and horticultural enterprises: Production of front-wheel-drive tractors and rotovators fell by 10 percent, and of compact tractors by more than 25 percent.

Livestock raising output is falling. According to the data, the volume of sales of livestock and poultry by all categories of farms fell by 13 percent, milk production fell by nine percent, and egg production by six percent.

Russia's favorable balance in trade with far-off foreign parts is increasing. Although not so much through increased exports (they rose by 2.9 percent, reaching \$8.9 billion), as through a reduction in imports (27 percent down on the first quarter of last year, the total volume being \$3.8 billion).

As for prices of goods and services, they rose by 44 percent in the third [as published] quarter. This is one of the smallest increases since the beginning of the economic reform. Average pay in March was 160,000 rubles [R]. The disposable income of the population (income excluding obligatory payments), taking into account the consumer prices index, rose by approximately 10 percent over the year. But the incomes of 17 percent of the population (that is, 25.2 million people) were below the poverty line in the first quarter of 1994, while in six percent of cases incomes did not even meet the cost of the basic essential foods, which is set at R37,000.

Aeroflot Privatization Decision Signed

LD1404183394 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 0025
GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Vitaliy Yefimov, the Russian Federation's minister of transport, has told RIA that the government of the Russian Federation has signed a decision on the

flotation of the Aeroflot Russian International Airlines air company. He said that the decision was signed two days ago and noted that, under the document, each of Aeroflot's four subsidiary companies can now regard itself as independent. However, Vladimir Potapov, president of Aeroflot's international division, told RIA that he had not seen the document relating to the airline's flotation and, therefore, could not comment on it.

Commentary Views Demonopolization Program

PM1504101994 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Apr 94 First Edition p 1

[A. Yevgenyev "Commentary": "Fighting Monopolies: Act Two"]

[Text] Someone has already made the following somewhat sarcastic comment about the "State Program for the Demonopolization of the Economy and the Development of Competition on the Russian Federation Markets": It will outlive the people who produced it. I must admit that the cavalry charge on Russian monopolies came to nothing. Attempts to put the 2,000 enterprises which dominate the national market on a separate register and change their economic behavior by means of state regulation have not worked as expected. No one was particularly frightened by the barrier in the form of profitability threshold. Enterprises learned easily to bypass it, generally by artificially inflating costs. It is time to adjust tactics.

The main purpose of the program that has been formulated is to change the actual monopolized structure of our market which developed during the reign of the administrative edict system. The Antimonopoly Committee alone is not up to the job. The territories and sectors need to take part, and the legislative base must be broadened. The new program makes provision for all that. It does not duplicate but supplements the well-known Law "On Competition and on Restricting Monopolist Activity on Commodity Markets." The plan is to draft a whole package of legislative acts that will promote the development of competition in various spheres of economic life. And it is proposed to start with the Law "On Monopolies."

As for so-called temporary monopolies, the intention is to bring pressure to bear upon them—not by restrictions or fines (the well-known register ceased to exist 1 January) but by creating a competitive environment, taking each individual case on its merits. Sectors and territories formulating and coordinating their demonopolization programs are to decide how specifically this is to be done. If there is a metalworking plant in an oblast, for instance, which meets the oblast's needs, this does not mean that another one should immediately be built in the neighborhood. It may be more advisable to convert a former "secret institution" and create sound competition. But representatives of sectors and regions must decide what is better and more effective by coming face

to face at a "roundtable." An Interdepartmental Commission for Competition Policy led by First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets has been set up to coordinate their interests.

There is another reason for such extensive representation, Izabella Fomina, head of the State Committee for Anti-Monopoly Policy and Support of the New Economic Structures Scientific and Technical Administration, thinks. Imagine the Ministry of Communications and the Ministry of Fuel and Energy examining a plan for the demonopolization of their sectors, while their customers sit alongside and are able to evaluate all this because they deal with these highly monopolized departments' prices every day.

Of course, you cannot tackle everything. That is why, along with general targets and recommendations, the program highlights the priorities—transport (apart from railroad transport), communications, machine building, and construction.

Federal Assembly

Duma Statement on NATO Air Strikes in Bosnia

LD1404172094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1600 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow, 14 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—The press service of the Russian State Duma has released the full text of a statement by the Russian Federation State Duma in connection with events in Bosnia- Herzegovina. Below is the full text of the statement:

Statement by the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation

Deputies of the State Duma express deep alarm in connection with the news of the air strikes in the area of Gorazde in Bosnia- Herzegovina. In spite of the position of Russian members of parliament, which has been expressed more than once in official documents and deputies' speeches on the danger of using military force in solving the conflict, a decision was adopted to utilize military aviation, and furthermore without preliminary consultations with Russia and other members of the UN Security Council.

The use of NATO aviation has led to fresh casualties among the Bosnian civilian population and has dealt a significant blow to efforts aimed at solving the conflict by peaceful means.

The worsening of the situation in the area of Gorazde testifies to serious inadequacies in the mechanism for adopting and implementing decisions during the implementation of UN peacekeeping operations. Peacekeeping operations should not be used for the implementation of military actions on a bloc basis.

We are extremely concerned by NATO's continuing policy of using force as a means for solving the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. In light of what has happened the State Duma:

1. Condemns unilateral NATO acts of force in Bosnia-Herzegovina.
2. Demands the immediate convening of the UN Security Council to discuss the situation that has arisen as a result of NATO's military interference in the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina and to take measures to avert an escalation of this explosive situation.
3. Calls on all the warring sides to end immediately the bloodshed and to open negotiations on a total cease-fire.
4. Deems it essential that UN forces be urgently deployed in the vicinity of Gorazde and that every measure be undertaken to prevent provocations by any of the sides.
5. Demands that the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry elaborates an active position on the creation of effective machinery for the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions so as to prevent in future the adoption of forcible measures without the opinion of Russia being taken into account.
6. Recommends that the State Duma Committee on International Affairs, the State Duma Committee on Defense, the State Duma Committee on Geopolitical Issues and the State Duma Committee on Security submit proposals that take Russia's interests fully into account in the elaboration of the position of the State Duma on the concept for Russia's interaction with NATO.

Zatulin Urges Caution on Partnership for Peace

LD1404211094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1610 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Chairman of the State Duma's Committee on CIS Affairs and Relations with Russians outside Russia, Konstantin Zatulin, believes that the State Duma must adopt a federal law stating that the agreement on Russia's joining NATO's Partnership for Peace program must be subject to ratification by the State Duma. Adoption of such a law was initiated on Wednesday by Chairman of the State Duma's Committee on Legislation and Judicial Reform, Vladimir Isakov.

Zatulin said the majority of State Duma deputies supported the idea. He announced that all participants in the hearings agreed that given the present situation of "civil discord" the NATO program should not be joined in a hurry. "Deputies were dissatisfied with the fact that the program did not provide for a special status for Russia and that the NATO members had taken a tough stand saying that Russia did not differ from any other participant in the program," Zatulin stressed.

Zatulin was certain that the CIS states must work out a single position on joining to the NATO program. He expected that the CIS summit planned for April 15 would discuss the issue. Zatulin said the CIS states must

work out a new defense doctrine taking into consideration that all the relics of the Cold War must disappear, referring not only to the Warsaw Pact but also NATO.

Duma Chairman Rybkin Reviews First 100 Days

PM1404104394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Apr 94 p 2

[Report by ITAR-TASS Observer Tatyana Zamyatina "especially for IZVESTIYA": "Ivan Rybkin: Magnanimity Discourages Opponents"]

[Text] Ivan Rybkin, chairman of the State Duma, considers the latter's inclination to seek accord among all the branches of power to be the main result of the first 100 days of the lower chamber of the Russian parliament's activity. At a meeting with chief editors of the Russian mass media at the ITAR-TASS news agency on 12 April he came across as a person who is open for discussion, independent, but complex.

Ivan Rybkin acknowledged that he still has differences of opinion with Sergey Filatov, leader of the President's Administration, on the question of social guarantees for former Russian Federation people's deputies. "Filatov and I spent four hours discussing this problem until midnight last night," Ivan Rybkin said.

As is well known, in accordance with the president's edict of 6 October 1993, Sergey Filatov and the commission headed by former Russian Federation deputy Aleksey Surkov drew up a list of 151 people's elected representatives of the previous parliament who have been denied the one-off monetary grant equivalent to a year's salary based on their monthly salary at the time their deputies' powers ceased. This is equivalent to approximately 3-4 million rubles per person, to be allocated, of course, from the state budget. The question of transferring to the ownership of those deputies Moscow apartments previously allocated to them for the duration of their term in the former Supreme Soviet remains in dispute. In an interview with your ITAR-TASS observer, Sergey Filatov noted that the housing question will be resolved on an individual basis. Meanwhile, as Filatov said, "Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov is not the kind of man who would give municipal apartments away to anyone free of charge," apartments worth \$60,000-\$70,000 each at market rates. "Otherwise it will be hard to explain to Muscovites why we are retaining housing in the capital for people who instigated civil war," Sergey Filatov believes.

Unlike Filatov, Ivan Rybkin believes that "magnanimity discourages one's opponents." In his opinion, the transfer of Moscow apartments to the former Russian Federation deputies "will not result in great losses, and if we are concerned about civil peace this measure must be taken."

Moving on to an assessment of the past three months of the Duma's activity, Ivan Rybkin noted that "the chamber has not accepted the implementation of the

principle of a formal majority in decisionmaking," and added that in Russian history it was often the minority which was in the right. In establishing the structure of the chamber the deputies have managed to give the Duma the status of a mini-parliament in which every draft law is "tested out first," which significantly eases the voting procedure, the speaker noted.

As an illustration he cited the voting on the set of amnesty decisions and put forward the paradoxical thought with regard to the events of August 1991 and 3-4 October 1993 that "the idea of consigning things to oblivion is very important because without it there can be no progress toward the conclusion of the Agreement on Civil Peace."

Zhirinovskiy Absence Allows 'Effective' Work

MK1404110094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 14 Apr 94 p 3

[Olga Garbuzova report: "State Duma Plenary Meeting. Deputies Lacked a Mere Trifle To Conduct Effective Work"]

[Text] It turned out that only the absence of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy can affect the course of law-making in Russia: Yesterday the State Duma's work was unprecedentedly effective. First of all, the deputies succeeded in their third attempt to pass the law on the status of deputies, in which the Liberal Democratic leader was particularly interested. In addition, the law "On the Procedure for Covering the Activity of Government Authorities in the State Mass Media" was adopted in the first reading.

The absence of the Liberal Democratic leader allowed the Duma to adopt a law regarding the status of a deputy without the imperative mandate, that is, one that would not give faction leaders the right to deprive a subordinate of a deputy's mandate, something Vladimir Zhirinovskiy had been persistently seeking. After a long break the State Duma approved a draft law on ways of dealing with the activity of state power authorities and state means of mass information. Under the draft, the press must publish materials by Russian Government authorities and Federation components under contracts to be financed by money from the budget. The money is considerable: If the law were already in force, newspapers and magazines would have been paid around 35 billion rubles for what they published in March. Radio and television will be less costly for the budget because semi-official reports will not be given that much air time. In a three-minute information program no more than 30 seconds can be devoted to the parliament. A program of more than 30 minutes is instructed to spend at least four minutes on Federal Assembly coverage. Information on the activity of government authorities should be reported as a separate block at the beginning of news programs without any comments. It was proposed that a deputy elected in a

territorial district be given a chance to speak on regional radio and television once every two months for at least seven minutes.

When presenting the draft, Mikhail Poltoranin said that he would guarantee the equality of rights of all branches of power to distribute information on their activity. At the same time, there will no longer be any need in the "Parliamentary Hour"-style programs, he said. Although the deputies passed the law in the first reading, they did not appear to be entirely certain of "information equality." Literally several minutes later they passed a decree on setting up the State Duma's television service, which will prepare daily programs "on the activity of Russia's representative branch."

Duma 'Unable' To Adopt Constitutional Court Law

PM1404101394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Apr 94 p 4

[Leonid Nikitinskiy report: "Constitutional Court's Stock Falls As Result of Political Trading"]

[Text] The uproar and dogfighting in the State Duma which marked the close of the past political week obscured an event which was actually of far greater significance: Parliament was unable to muster a qualified majority for the adoption of the Law on the Constitutional Court at its first reading. The dogfighting both in individual branches of power and between neighboring branches will continue without any rules and in the absence of an arbiter.

The Duma was making effectively its first attempt at legislative activity, its first encounter with the weightlifters' barbell which it has promised to lift, without which there is no sense in deputies even mounting the stage. And the fact that the first attempt was a total flop, or rather, did not get off the ground at all, unfortunately arouses serious apprehension regarding the legislative possibilities of the first post-Soviet parliament as a whole.

The draft law was prepared mainly by the judges of the Constitutional Court themselves, and since the judges have had not only positive experiences, but also negative ones (if not more of the latter), they endeavored to safeguard themselves against future political interference in the legal process. The corresponding provisions of the draft law were aimed not at depriving the Constitutional Court of all political competence, but at curbing the political games and intrigues around it. Alas, these games and intrigues have already resumed around the draft law itself, even at a distant remove from parliament itself.

The President's State-Legal Administration attempted to contest the Constitutional Court's right to initiate legislation on its own account. The president himself, according to Acting Constitutional Court Chairman Nikolay Vitruk, was extremely surprised at this, and instructed Aleksandr Yakovlev, his representative in parliament, to support the draft law. As a result some

presidential structures officially defended the draft, but others scuppered it in the lobbies. It is hard to explain this by anything other than the battle for power and influence inside presidential structures.

Following the Duma Council's session on Thursday it became clear that it was highly unlikely that the hurdle of two-thirds of the votes necessary for the adoption of federal constitutional laws—quantifiable as 300 votes—would be cleared. Finally the display board flashed up the figures: 247 votes for, 51 against, 87 abstentions. Those who voted against were mainly members of the communist faction, and the backbone of abstainers is formed by the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia.

The day before at the Duma Council Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, who despises all diplomatic contortions, stated perfectly frankly that he was ready to exchange the votes of his faction for an agreement on an imperative mandate. The imperative mandate was also in its own way one of last week's issues in the State Duma—and, perhaps, will also be an issue this week too. According to the laws of the "standard [operativnyy] mandate," a deputy elected to parliament on a party roll cannot vote contrary to the opinion of the majority of his faction, on pain of being expelled not only from his faction, but also from deputies' ranks altogether. Obviously, for Vladimir Zhirinovskiy the desire to bind the breakaway members of his faction by imperative mandate (which does not meet with the support of the majority in parliament) is so overriding that it is impossible to understand in what relation he stands to the draft law on the Constitutional Court.

Overt political horse-trading is being conducted around this draft law. The communist faction and Zhirinovskiy's supporters are demanding some kind of State Duma quota in the appointment of judges, and also their own quota within this "Duma" quota. The Communists are also demanding that the Constitutional Court be restored its right to accept cases for examination on its own initiative, which was withdrawn from the draft, and without which it is not so effective in the capacity of a weapon in political brawling and blackmail.

Of course, it was easy to object from the Duma rostrum during the discussion of the draft law that all these amendments are anticonstitutional and require at the very least amendments to the Constitution that was approved in the referendum. On the other hand the Constitution does not forbid any deputy to push the voting button as he sees fit. As long as strictly legal questions are the issue, however complicated they may be, it is always possible to reach compromise—this, in point of fact, is the task of the law. It is far more difficult to reach real accord in politics.

From the point of view of understanding of political factors, the draft law on the Constitutional Court was prepared and road-tested especially thoroughly. All factions pay at least lip service to the need for the Constitutional Court to resume its activity as soon as possible. Questions are accumulating which no one has a right to answer except a Constitutional Court. Nevertheless, the

draft law was defeated. Just as it will be in the event of its radical revision as demanded by "leftists," only this time by the factions of the opposite wing.

The inability to muster two-thirds of the votes on the most fundamental questions threatens the familiar paralysis in legislative development in the foreseeable future. Russia remains without a Constitutional Court, without a general prosecutor, without a "qualified majority" in its legislative organs, and, as a consequence, without Law. And once again it is political ambitions that are thwarting the normal legislative process.

Duma To Move to Economy Ministry's Building

MK1404131094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Apr 94 p 2

[Unattributed report under the "In Brief" rubric: "Moscow"]

[Text] The Russian State Duma will move to the building at 1 Okhotnyy Ryad before 1 May, State Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin said 13 April. He noted that another building has already been found for the Economy Ministry, which is still occupying the premises.

Regional Affairs

Yaroslavl Asks Gaydar To Carry Out Local Reforms

MK1404101094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 14 Apr 94 p 2

[Dmitriy Kuznets report under the "Experiments" rubric: "Investments Are Easier To Get With Gaydar's Approval. Yaroslavl Oblast Conducts Examination of Investment Projects"]

[Text] The Institute for a Transitional Period Economy [ITPE], headed by Yegor Gaydar, and the Yaroslavl Oblast administration have extended their cooperation in 1994 whose result is a program of selective policy [selektivnaya politika] for the oblast's enterprises. The Yaroslavl authorities have decided to support the initiative of their Nizhniy Novgorod neighbors and to invite the prominent economist from Moscow to carry out a local reform.

The absence of a broad-based promotion for the project in Russia is explained by the fact that it is almost completely geared to Western investors. Thus, unlike Nizhniy Novgorod, Yaroslavl is only interested in money rather than in an image of economic well-being: Yegor Gaydar is not going to "build capitalism in a separate oblast." The Gaydar institute has examined all investment applications and turned down some of them, in particular an international airport project.

Generally, the "selective policy" a la Gaydar in Yaroslavl Oblast is fully free of territorial and sectoral constraints. The ITPE has elaborated criteria for the projects

of enterprises that are in need of investments. The main criterion should naturally be returns on investments. This applies not only to projects in the social sphere. The oblast's budget, too, has undergone ITPE examination and, in Mr. Gaydar's words, has been considerably altered. One result of these alterations, the project's authors think, is a "relative socioeconomic stability" in the region. The only serious problem the oblast faces is the "inordinately high unemployment level" attributed to the fact that concentrated in the region is a labor-intensive light industry that is going through a crisis in the absence of consumer demand. That sharply reduces the number of jobs.

Yegor Gaydar has named among the most promising projects the development of the tourism and services spheres. He has not shared the governor's enthusiasm for the production of agricultural equipment, however, because he thinks it is not going to find consumer demand.

The administration is most unlikely to receive money from Western partners without Gaydar's positive findings. This is perhaps why his cooperation has been sought—the trust in Gaydar's name in the West will make it possible for Yaroslavl resident to attract the necessary investments.

St. Petersburg TV Executives Investigated for Graft

*MK1404125094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian
14 Apr 94 p 3*

[Aleksandr Pozdnyakov report in the "Special Case" column: "A Criminal Case Has Been Opened Against the Russian State TV and Radio Company Petersburg-Channel 5. Mr. Pravdyuk Blames Everything on 'National-Patriots, Communists, and Above All Zionists'"]

[Text] The St. Petersburg Main Internal Affairs Directorate's economic crimes department has presented to the city Prosecutor's Office the results of an examination into a statement by a group of State Duma deputies about illegal activity by Bella Kurkova, chairperson of the Russian State TV and Radio Company [RSTVRC] Petersburg-Channel 5; and her husband, Vadim Tareyev, with an inscription, "For initiating criminal prosecution."

This action is based on testimony by Valeriy Mikhaylov, director of the joint stock company Commercial TV and Radio Center of St. Petersburg, who alleged that Mrs. Kurkova extorted sponsorship from him for Mr. Tareyev's private enterprise. According to Mikhaylov, "the Russian General Prosecutor's Office, which demanded part of the materials to be sent to Moscow for study," has also shown interest in the investigation results.

The leadership of the RSTVRC Petersburg-Channel 5 has reacted in a peculiar manner. In an interview with

the city daily **VECHERNIY PETERBURG**, RSTVRC First Deputy Chairman Viktor Pravdyuk put forward several mutually exclusive ideas as to who is to blame for the trouble that has occurred with the RSTVRC Petersburg-Channel 5 executives. Mr. Pravdyuk stated that "the provocation against St. Petersburg TV" was organized by former TV and Radio Company employees led by Mikhail Syroyezhin, Kurkova's former deputy for advertising. Viktor Pravdyuk said that the "provocateurs are national patriots and communists seeking to place TV broadcasting under their control at any price, and, most important, Zionists and the NTV company, which articulates their interests."

The paradoxical thinking of Kurkova's first deputy, who has constructed an elaborate legend about Russian nationalists trying, with the help of Jewish money, to remove democrats from top executive positions at RSTVRC Petersburg-Channel 5, has surprised many observers. Even so, a measure of ambiguity in Mr. Pravdyuk's perception of reality may be due to the anxious anticipation of the results of an investigation into a criminal case which the St. Petersburg Prosecutor's Office is most likely to open against Mrs. Kurkova. Within the next few days documents will be presented to the Prosecutor's Office about foreign bank accounts held by some modest civil servants closely linked with the leadership of the State TV and Radio Company Petersburg-Channel 5.

Official on Kaliningrad Status, 'Germanization'

*WS1504111194 Kaliningrad KALININGRADSKAYA
PRAVDA in Russian 12 Apr 94 p 2*

[Statement by S. Ginzburg, chief of the Information Studies Department at the Oblast Administration, under the "Apropos One Appeal" rubric: "There Is No Need To Spread Panic"]

[Text] Recently, certain political forces have made attempts to discredit the idea of the imperative adoption of the law "On the Status of Kaliningrad Oblast." At the same time, it turns out that this move will be responsible for our political distancing from Russia, will promote Germanization of the oblast, and so on. The emergence of such statements on the eve of debates on this draft law in the Federal Assembly is worrisome. Therefore, I consider it necessary to focus on the following:

1. The draft law "On the Status of Kaliningrad Oblast" was prepared by the Oblast Administration in cooperation with the Oblast Soviet of People's Deputies and promulgated for public consideration in the 6 August 1993 issue of **KALININGRADSKAYA PRAVDA**. Later, the draft law was brought in line with the Constitution of the Russian Federation adopted on 12 December 1993, the current law of the Russian Federation, No. 2117 decree of the Russian president of 7 December 1993 "On Kaliningrad Oblast," and proposals of ministries and departments concerning its first reading.

2. If it is adopted, the law will establish the status of our oblast as a territory of the Russian Federation separated by other territories from its proper area. The term status in this case implies the legal situation of Kaliningrad Oblast within Russia, defined by specific conditions for economic activities. Moreover, the status will conform with the oblast's geopolitical, social, and economic position, and will provide for additional guarantees in protecting the rights of Russian citizens on its territory.

3. All talk about the oblast's distancing from Russia are unfounded. Those who claim this, have either not read the draft law or are deliberately misleading Kaliningrad inhabitants. For example, the first article entitled "Kaliningrad Oblast Within the Russian Federation" clearly states that our oblast is an inseparable part of Russia, that its frontiers coincide with the state border of the Russian Federation, and that its territory has a particular place in ensuring Russia's security system.

Furthermore, the last version of the draft law notes that it bans the activities of any political parties, organizations, and individuals in Kaliningrad Oblast, which run counter to international legal norms that establish Russia's authority over this territory as final.

4. Speculation about the law facilitating the purchase of land by foreigners, which would allegedly promote Germanization of the oblast, are groundless. In fact, Article 36 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation reads that land in Russia (that is, also in Kaliningrad Oblast) can be owned only by citizens of the Russian Federation and not by any foreign residents. In other words, this is a citizen's rather than a human right.

The draft law on the status of Kaliningrad Oblast reflects all the key peculiarities of our unique region. The sooner this law is adopted, the sooner the oblast will gain political and economic guarantees. I think that in such a situation some esteemed deputies should direct their efforts to the consistent protection of the interests of our oblast rather than to spreading panic.

Kaliningrad Oblast Rejects Attacks on Chief

WS1504095194 Kaliningrad KALININGRADSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 2 Apr 94 p 1

[Statement by the press center of the Kaliningrad Oblast Administration under the "Official" rubric]

[Text] The 31 March 1994 issue of KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA published an article entitled "Matochkin's Den." The article was written by the same authors who prepared the publication "The Amber Chamber for General Dunayev" in September 1993. The press center of the Kaliningrad Oblast Administration is authorized to make the following statement:

1. An inquiry into the facts contained in the aforementioned article was conducted by procuracy. The inquiry

did not confirm that these facts were linked with the head of the Kaliningrad Oblast Administration [Yuri Matochkin].

Y. S. Matochkin has brought an action against the newspaper KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA. Currently, the case is being investigated by the Krasnopresnenskiy people's court in Moscow. The respondent (KOMSO-MOLSKAYA PRAVDA) has not appeared before the court for a single meeting.

2. After the head of the Oblast Administration had sued the newspaper, he received proposals through different channels to withdraw his action. Otherwise, they promised to launch a series of publications "unmasking" him. It is common knowledge that the authors of the given article were in Kaliningrad between February and March 1994, when they engaged in collecting "discrediting" information. The fact that the authors did not try to meet with either law enforcement officials or the head of the administration demonstrates their specific orientation.

3. Regarding the contents of the article, it does not contain a single new fact unknown to the public. The authors again return to the story about the funds and the establishment of the RIFK "Alliance." There are the decisions of the prosecutor, law enforcement institutions, and the Oblast Soviet of People's Deputies concerning these issues.

4. In our opinion, the emergence of this publication is a continuation of the planned campaign by a group of defeated local politicians and representatives of semi-Mafia and Mafia structures, seeking to seize power in the region. They must be eager to have a submissive person as oblast leader, so as to be able to engage in illegal operations unpunished. It is no accident that attacks on the head of the administration intensified after his attempts to impose order in the sale of amber, toughen controls on customs, and vitalize the tax policy.

Given the fact that any calls for honesty and decency are meaningless with regard to the authors and those who ordered this publication, the head of the administration reserves the right to defend his honor and dignity through legal channels.

N. Ossetians, Ingushis Agree on Accord Preamble

LD1504125594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1055 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] The North Ossetian and Ingush teams negotiating in the Kabardino-Balkarian capital Nalchik agreed on April 14 on the preamble of a final document, a treaty on helping the refugees in their republics return to their homes, as envisaged by the Russian president's decree.

Vladimir Lozovoy, head of the interim administration in the emergency-rule zone, said at a news conference in Nalchik Thursday night that adoption of the preamble was the main achievement of the day. He said that the two sides had, at last, developed the guidelines for

further talks. In particular, the preamble condemns all kinds of extremism and activities of those who triggered the violence in North Ossetia in the fall of 1992. The preamble also says that the two sides will abide by the Russian Federation's Constitution and ordinances of the Russian government in resolving their problems.

Lozovoy also said that the North Ossetian and Ingush negotiating teams headed by Presidents Akhsarbek Galazov and Ruslan Aushev would continue discussion of the draft accord article by article. The talks were expected to resume in the Kabardino-Balkarian president's country residence at 11:00 Friday.

Lozovoy said that even though the issues under discussion were not easy, the atmosphere of the talks was polite and benevolent. Speaking on the April 12 capture of Ingush hostages in North Ossetia, Lozovoy said that North Ossetian law enforcement agencies had been keeping three Ingushs suspected of crimes committed in the republic. They are in the custody of the North Ossetian Prosecutor's Office.

Chechen's Dudayev on Ties with Russia

LD1404185694 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1200 GMT 14 Apr 94

[S. Shcherbal report from Sochi, from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] It looks as though Dzhokhar Dudayev has decided to begin building ties with Russia by first making contacts with the regions. Recently he visited the Russian agricultural fair in Sochi and had an interview with your correspondent.

[Shcherbal] Do you intend to broaden economic cooperation with Russia?

[Dudayev] We never intended to break it up.

[Shcherbal] I meant—broadening it.

[Dudayev] Of course, we intend to broaden it, and only with the CIS, with Russia. [sentence as heard]

[Shcherbal] Are you planning to meet with President Yeltsin and discuss the prospects of establishing formal political relations between Russia and Chechnya?

[Dudayev] We have never refused to do this, never. We were never against interaction, meetings, political decisions, cooperation. But the situation in Russia is very complicated at the moment. And it is getting even more difficult. President Yeltsin is being deprived from working on his own. In fact, Russia has no firm foreign or domestic policy. One does not know with whom one should negotiate. There are dozens of delegations, representations from all sorts of parties and factions, and everyone tries to grab a piece of the action. And this presents the main difficulty. [end recording]

Fateyev Urges Recognition of Chechen President

LD1404210694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1610 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Russian Deputy Economics Minister, Valeriy Fateyev, called for urgent renewal of talks between Russia and Chechnya. He suggested in an interview with Interfax today that the Federation Council must recognize the legitimate character of the presidency of Jorhar Dudayev and send a delegation for talks on all issues concerning Russian-Chechen relations.

As the Head of the Russian parliamentary delegation Fateyev visited the zone of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict, the Chechen Republic and met Chechen President Jorhar Dudayev on his own initiative. Fateyev examined the present situation in Chechnya.

"What doubts could there be about the legitimacy of Dudayev's presidency after the three years of his being in power?" Fateyev wondered. He believes that recognition of Chechen President Jorhar Dudayev by Moscow would be a move towards normalization of the situation which will bring significant positive results. "The attempts by the Russian leadership to negotiate with the Chechen opposition and to make signing of the bilateral treaty conditional on early parliamentary and presidential elections will be of no use to Russia," Fateyev emphasized. He considered this to be a syndrome of imperial policy.

Fateyev suggested that for the time-being the Russian leadership had no definite position on the Chechen issue but certain politicians were trying to use it in their own political interests. "This is manifested in the fact that very few people are concerned over diametrically opposite statements which a politician may make on this issue," Fateyev remarked. He said these people were mostly concerned over their image.

Speaking on his impressions from the meetings with President Dudayev, Fateyev defined him as a complex and strong person with a strong will. "It is important for Russia that this will be used in its interests," Fateyev stressed.

"The economic situation is the main factor of the state leadership's capacities. The economic situation in Chechnya is manageable and under control. Certainly, it goes through a crisis. Certainly, there is a decline but not a catastrophic one, Fateyev concluded.

Foreign Spies Increasing Activity in Irkutsk

LD1504093294 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 0830 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Foreign secret services, primarily from Germany, the United States, Japan, and South Korea, are continuing to increase their activity in Irkutsk Oblast, according to (Valeriy Shestak), director of the regional Federal Counterintelligence Service [FSK] directorate. Last year the FSK directorate uncovered 10 secret service agents and 20 employees of foreign intelligence

services among foreigners visiting the Angara region. The Eastern and Western secret services are particularly interested in progress in privatization and conversion in the area.

Mordovia Parliament Revives Soviets

MK1404102094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 14 Apr 94 p 2

[Natalya Gorodetskaya report in the "Restoration" column: "Mordovia's Supreme Soviet Has Restored District and City Soviets. The Government Is Against but It Is Ignored"]

[Text] Mordovia's Supreme Soviet, periodically stirring the public with loud scandals—now setting up the republic's Constitutional Court to help remove the president from his post, now abolishing it quickly ostensibly as "useless"—has decided again to make itself known. Relying on the Russian Federation State Duma's and president's permission, a Supreme Soviet session moved elections to the Legislative Assembly from 5 June to 27 November although the election campaign has been in full swing, with more than 350 candidates nominated to 75 seats. The Supreme Soviet motivated its decision by suggesting that simultaneous elections to the Legislative Assembly and local power bodies will be less expensive for the taxpayers. Generally, the wish to save public funds is quite laudable except that no one has consulted the people about the fourth shift in the election date.

On 11 April Mordovia's Supreme Soviet Presidium met to discuss its further actions. Quite naturally the subject of discussion was that the executive branch in general and administration chiefs in particular have gotten completely out of hand, and after the "illegal dissolution of the soviets" there is no one to oversee them. The Supreme Soviet Presidium then found an easy and foolproof method to control administration heads. It was decided to elect district and city presidiums from among former deputies of district and cities soviets, up to 25 people, vesting them with oversight functions. Under the interim regulations On Chairmen and Presidiums of District and City Deputies Assemblies, they are to approve the local budget and report on its execution; impose local taxes and charges; approve programs for the development of corresponding territories; amend the local self-government charter; oversee the activity of the administration head; sanction the appointment of administration head and other officials, and so forth.

Republic Prosecutor Pavel Senkin, who was present at the Supreme Soviet Presidium session, warned the house against voting to restore soviet power because this contradicts the Russian Federation Constitution and Boris Yeltsin's edict on reforming the soviets. Supreme Soviet Chairman Nikolay Biryukov, however, feeling his colleagues' support, stated that "no matter whether our decision is legal or not, as we shall vote, so it will be." The "yes" vote was practically unanimous.

The scandal in Mordovia is growing and has already reached Moscow. The republic's prosecutor, upholding legality, has appealed against the Presidium's actions to the Russian General Prosecutor's Office. Valentin Konakov, the president's representative in Mordovia, in a telephone conversation with SEGODNYA's correspondent, assessed the decision by the Supreme Soviet Presidium as "restoration of soviet power in full volume on a communist basis," stemming from the "desire to preserve their powers to the utmost," moreover, by "exceeding these powers." According to him, the decision is "an unconstitutional act and it does not agree with Boris Yeltsin's edict on local self-government," a fact he noted in his memorandum yesterday to the presidential administration.

A similar reaction to the emerging setup has come from administration chiefs who refuse to take their orders from the soviets. The republican government appraised the Supreme Soviet Presidium's decision as interference in its affairs. Yesterday in Saransk a joint session of the government and administration chiefs was held, ruling, in view of the fact that there is no constitutional court in the republic, to request the Russian Federation president to look into the "legality and constitutionality" of the Mordovia Supreme Soviet Presidium's resolution. Mordovia's government decided "not to implement the Supreme Soviet Presidium resolution pending the president's decision." The administration heads were told to be guided in their activity by the latest resolution of the Council of Ministers, not the Supreme Soviet Presidium. In addition, an enlarged session of administration chiefs and the government decided to ask Mordovia's Supreme Soviet, the Russian Federation president, and the Russian Federal Assembly to move elections to the republican Legislative Assembly back to 5 June.

Maritime Kray Governor Claims Southern Kurils

OW1504022394 Vladivostok Radiostantsiya Tikhii Okean Maritime Network in Russian 0715 GMT 11 Apr 94

[From the "Pacific Ocean" Program]

[Text] As always, the subject of the Kurils remains topical. On this occasion, the SOVETSKIY SAKHALIN newspaper reports that apparently not only Japan, but also the Maritime Kray is laying claim to the southern Kurils. At a March press conference in Vladivostok, Yevgeniy Nazdratenko, governor of the Maritime Kray, said the Kurils should be economically subordinated to the Maritime Kray. He added that the Maritime Kray economy would gladly accept the Kurils.

SOVETSKIY SAKHALIN says this interest is understandable since a significant amount of foreign-currency-earning raw material resources from the far east are obtained in this region. As far as the Kurils' own economy is concerned, its neighbors are hardly prepared, or able, to take upon themselves the problems of the

Kuril residents. It is not easy being the inhabitants of the disputed islands, writes SOVETSKIY SAKHALIN.

Tuva Leader on Relationship With Center

PM1404152394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Apr 94 First Edition p 2

[Interview with Tuva [Tyva] Republic President Sherig-ool Oorzhak by Viktor Serov; date, place not given: "Accountable to the People. Tuva Republic President Sherig-ool Oorzhak Answers ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA Correspondent's Questions"]

[Text] [Oorzhak] The political situation in our republic is stable. Needless to say there are plenty of problems, but there are no strikes or interethnic friction. We have adopted our own Constitution—54 percent of the registered voters voted for it. Typically, "Russian" rayons voted in the same way as "Tuvan" rayons.

[Serov] Does the Tuva Constitution coincide with Russia's Constitution on the fundamental points?

[Oorzhak] There are three differences—and fundamental ones at that. First, we have enshrined the republic's self-determination—up to and including secession. But that does not mean of course that anyone intends to leave Russia today.

Second, according to last April's referendum, land is not for sale in our republic. You can understand why: The republic has 1.5 million livestock that graze throughout its territory and so it cannot be divided up into squares. Although a decision on buying and selling land within cities and villages may quite possibly be adopted in order for people to build homes and for dacha plots and garages.

Third, we have our own system that determines the conditions for the existence of all branches of power. The main requirement here being periodic accountability and replaceability. Unlike Russian regulations, for instance, a judge can be elected for a maximum of two five-year terms. But he can receive a vote of no-confidence prior to that. Any other approach is impossible in a republic with strong kinship and clan customs and traditions which may give rise to corruption. And as president and head of the executive I am constitutionally strictly accountable.

After the long CPSU monopoly we must particularly defend democracy in order to ensure that the new generation can grow up in different—democratic—conditions.

[Serov] Is there a guarantee that there will not be forces wanting to take advantage of the relevant paragraph of Tuva's Constitution and proclaim the slogan "Let Us Secede!"?

[Oorzhak] There is a guarantee. Our Constitution enshrines the idea that, on the basis of the Federation Treaty, Tuva is part of Russia, which acknowledges our republic's sovereignty.

[Serov] What is your attitude toward political and economic autonomy for parts of Siberia? What are the possible parameters of this autonomy?

[Oorzhak] Republics, krais, and oblasts must undoubtedly have equal political and economic rights. As for relations with the center, the regions must voluntarily delegate to it the resolution of those problems which they themselves cannot handle (the army, communications, transportation, power engineering, higher education, etc).

A law is needed on the mechanism for the implementation of the Federation Treaty. It is necessary to clearly determine what is delegated to whom, who tackles what, to whom the land and mineral deposits belong, and the center's role. The adoption of this law can be organized by the upper chamber of parliament and the Committee for Federation Affairs, the Federation Treaty, and Regional Policy.

Korea, Russian Far East Association Meets

944F0566A Vladivostok KRASNOYE ZNAMYA in Russian 13 Apr 94 p 1

[Press release of the Press Center of the Maritime Kray Administration: "Meeting in Seoul—Specific Results. The Far East, Siberia, and Korea: Paths of Regional Cooperation"]

[Text] The third joint conference of the Association for Cooperation Between the Republic of Korea and Russia's Far East and Siberia (AKRS) and the Committee for Cooperation Between the Far East, Siberia, and the Republic of Korea (KRKS) has been held in Seoul. Head of the Kray Administration Yevgeniy Nazdratenko, his deputy for foreign economic activities, Vladimir Stegnyy, and Chairman of the Committee for Foreign Economic and Regional Relations Andrey Zagumennov took part in the proceedings of the conference representing the Maritime area.

The Joint Statement, the draft of a technology park in the Nakhodka Free Economic Zone which is ready for the stage of technical and economic feasibility study, and the organization of the Korean College at the facilities of the Far Eastern State University were the results of the Korean-Russian conference.

As Vladimir Stegnyy stated, the conference in Seoul proceeded under the leadership of KRKS Chairman Yevgeniy Nazdratenko and AKRS Chairman Chang Yi-haek. Some 300 prominent representatives of the statesman and business communities of the two states took part in the conference. The parties found it feasible to form a specific economic zone in Northeastern Asia

and in the basin of the Sea of Japan with the participation of countries such as Russia, China, and Japan. In the process, the need to use the significant geopolitical situation of the Far East in an optimal way was stressed.

The parties agreed to approach their governments with a proposal to establish a private-governmental Joint Committee for the Far East and Siberia under the Russian Intergovernmental Commission for Economic Cooperation. The committee in question could engage in resolving differences and overcoming difficulties that develop in the course of effecting commercial-economic,

investment, scientific- technical, and cultural cooperation between the Republic of Korea and Russia's Far East and Siberia.

It was resolved to seek that the relevant authorities of the two states begin regular flights between Vladivostok and Seoul in 1994, as well as regular flights between Korea and Sakhalin, Irkutsk, Novosibirsk, and Kamchatka Oblasts in the future. The parties agreed to facilitate the creation of customs warehouses in the principal seaports and air terminals of the Far East and to make efforts to improve the operation of the Transsiberian Railroad.

It is planned to hold the Fourth Joint Conference in Irkutsk in 1995.

International Affairs**Mixed Reports of Russian Sailor Eviction in Crimea**

LD1504054494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1251 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow 14 April, TASS—Ukrainian authorities have kicked eighteen naval officers of the Black Sea Fleet out of their flats. They were evicted with their families and all their belongings after they refused to swear allegiance to Ukraine, a source in the naval press centre told ITAR-TASS.

Ukrainian troops have already seized the unit's ships and hoisted the yellow-blue Ukrainian flags on their masts.

The Black Sea Fleet command is now taking measures to evacuate its officers and their families from Odessa.

[At 1700 GMT on 14 April Kiev Ukrainian Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian reports: "The head of the Ukrainian Navy press-center, captain third rank Mykola Savchenko has described as misinformation the ITAR-TASS report alleging that 18 officers and warrant officers in Odessa who had not sworn an oath of allegiance to Ukraine were evicted. (?Ordinary) servicemen are being misrepresented as (?sufferers) for the cause, stressed the head of the Ukrainian Navy press center."]

Defense Ministry Protests Dispatch of Amphibious Vessel

LD1404143894 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1400 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] The press service of the Defense Ministry has stated: The Black Sea Fleet command has ordered the dispatch today of an amphibious warfare ship to Odessa, thus ignoring emphatic objections by Ukraine's Ministry of Defense. The press service reports that the fleet headquarters previously informed our Ministry of Defense of the move, arguing that it was caused by the necessity of bringing a group of officers from the disbanded 318th division from Odessa to Sevastopol. The request was denied, since Ukraine's Ministry of Defense is perfectly capable of transporting the officers itself, either by sea or by air. Official assurances to this effect have been given to the Black Sea Fleet command.

The press service stresses that Admiral Baltin and his aides have now resorted to a step that could aggravate the already complex situation concerning the Black Sea Fleet. At the same time, the press service notes, there is concern at the fact that the fleet command allocated a specialized mobile ship for the action, which is normally used for amphibious assault landing. Besides, an escort ship and two fully armed antisubmarine ships have cast

off in Sevastopol today. The Admiral Golovko rocket cruiser and other combat vessels of the Black Sea Fleet are also being put on alert.

Black Sea Fleet Ships Headed for Odessa Turn Back

LD1404162894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1539 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Yefim Shvartsman]

[Text] Odessa, 14 Apr—A detachment of Black Sea Fleet ships, led by the large amphibious warfare ship Tsezar Kunikov, which was heading for Odessa today from Sevastopol, has turned back. An ITAR-TASS correspondent was told this by telephone by Aleksandr Kluban, head of the press service of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry.

According to him, the change of course occurred thanks to agreement between the leadership of the Ukrainian military department and the Black Sea Fleet command.

Black Sea Fleet Officers Condemn Ukrainian Actions

LD1404190794 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Video report by correspondent A. Vozhzhov from Sevastopol; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The Officers' Assembly was held at the Black Sea Fleet military base in Sevastopol. The officers have condemned the actions carried out by the Ukraine Navy against the personnel of the 318th Division of the reserve ships in Odessa. The assembly called on the Ukrainian Government and Defense Ministry to stop the arbitrary actions against the Black Sea Fleet, and said that the Black Sea Fleet is not to be intimidated and will remain, as before, faithful to the peoples of Russia and Ukraine, its military duty, and their oath of allegiance that is given only once. The incident in Odessa could be forgotten for the sake of accord between the two Slav states—but only after an investigation and punishment of those responsible for it has been carried out. However, the Ukrainian side resists this.

[Begin Admiral Feliks Gromov recording, Black Sea Fleet commander] The Black Sea Fleet has requested permission from the Foreign and Defense Ministries of Ukraine to allow a medium assault landing force vessel carrying representatives of the Black Sea Fleet to arrive in Odessa and take onboard seamen who swore allegiance to Russia. So far, the Ukrainian Defense Ministry has not given its agreement to it. [end recording]

[Vozhzhov] Families of servicemen of the 318th Division in Odessa who refused to swear an oath of allegiance to Ukraine are now being evicted from their apartments. Besides, sources close to the Ukraine Navy General Staff

report that an action similar to that in Odessa is being planned in Ismail, this time against a brigade of river vessels.

[Begin Gromov recording] The Black Sea Fleet problem should be solved once and for all in accordance with the Massandra Protocol. [end recording]

Baltin Denies Blockade of Ukrainian Ship

LD1404182394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1610 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Commander of the Black Sea Fleet, Admiral Eduard Baltin in an interview with INTERFAX denied reports that the Fleet's ships left for sea on Thursday to block the Slavutich ship of the Ukrainian Naval Board.

Slavutich was in Odessa where it took part in the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the city's liberation from the Nazis, and is currently moving toward Sevastopol.

According to Baltin, a marine ship of the Black Sea Fleet left for Odessa on 14 April to take on board military servicemen of a Black Sea Fleet division and their families. However, since the Ukrainian defense minister ordered the ports of Odessa, Nikolayev, Ochakov, Ismail and Kherson not to let Black Sea Fleet ships in, the ship had to return to Sevastopol.

In the meantime, Head of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry's press service Aleksandr Kluban told INTERFAX-Ukraine, the Ukrainian Defense Ministry granted all of its resources—ships and air transport—to take out those military servicemen. In particular, there was a proposal to transport people on board the Slavutich.

Foreign Ministry Denies Report on Odessa Incident

LD1404234794 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 2200 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Kiev, 14 Apr—The press center of the Foreign Affairs Ministry of Ukraine has disproved today's report by the information program of the Ostankino First Channel to the effect that Ukraine's Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko laid the responsibility for the Odessa incident at the door of the local power bodies. "The words ascribed to the minister were never pronounced. The interview itself, mentioned in the news by the Russian mass media, was nonexistent," emphasizes the statement by the press center of Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Ministry. "Such distortions and the campaign of falsehoods, launched in the Russian mass media around the Odessa incident, have quite an obvious objective: To aggravate the situation around the entire package of the Black Sea Fleet problems, shifting the responsibility onto the Ukrainian side," indicates the statement by the press center of Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Ministry.

Russian Envoy Denied Access to Odessa Again

LD1404191294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1757 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow 14 April, TASS—A Russian delegation headed by ambassador at large Yuriy Dubinin failed to visit the Ukrainian port of Odessa on Thursday after the Ukrainian Foreign and Defence Ministries denied it a permission to enter the city, a spokesman for Russian naval forces told TASS today.

In Sevastopol, the main base of the Black Sea Fleet, the Russian delegation met with the fleet command and the command of the research vessel Cheleken, the spokesman reported. Officers of Ukraine's Naval Command and Defence Ministry were not supposed to take part in these meetings.

Naval Command Seeks Return of 'Stolen' Equipment

LD1404195994 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Odessa [no dateline as received]—Today, Vice Admiral Volodymyr Bezkorovynny, commander of the Ukrainian Naval Forces, who arrived from Nikolayev, met Captain 1st Rank Dmytro Ukrainets, Odessa senior naval chief, appointed by Ukraine's Defense Ministry on 13 April, and the command of Ukraine's Defense Ministry First Brigade protecting the Odessa water basin. During a break in the conference, Volodymyr Bezkorovynny granted a brief interview to a UNIAN correspondent.

"The 12 April meeting in Kiev between the unofficial delegations of Ukraine and Russia in connection with the Odessa incident does not evoke my optimism," said the Ukrainian Naval Forces commander. "We supplied the Russian side with all the documents that confirm the illegitimate and criminal nature of the actions by the Russian officers who were on board the survey vessel, the Cheleken, and also on the part of the command of the former 318th Division of the Black Sea Fleet conservation ships. We submitted explanatory notes, eyewitnesses' evidence that the cargo on board the Cheleken was loaded in secret, and the order to use arms against Ukrainian sailors was immediately passed to Captain 2d Rank Oleksandr Zelenko from Sevastopol by the Black Sea Fleet command.

"We also provided proof of the legitimacy of the actions by Captain 1st Rank Volodymyr Orlov, the senior naval chief of Odessa. All the documents are irrefutable, from the legal viewpoint. One can only refuse to acknowledge them—to be more precise—to refuse to be aware of them, what, correctly speaking, the Russian side, headed by Admiral Feliks Gromov, demonstrated at the meeting. There can be no other explanation of the fact that Admiral Gromov did everything possible so that we, like him, would fail to meet the participants in the

Odessa incident in Sevastopol. The meeting with the crew of the Cheleken was obviously not to his advantage. When he arrived in Sevastopol, the Russian military sailors would not allow the procurator, a customs official, and border guards to go onboard the Cheleken. This gives grounds to assume that not only the hydrographic unit RLS-5 'Mars' was taken away from Odessa in a criminal manner, but, probably, other valuable equipment from Ukraine's untouchable mobilization resources, as well. We insist and we will continue to insist that the stolen military cargo be returned to Odessa."

Replying to the question as to what his answer to President Leonid Kravchuk was concerning the proposal made by the U.S. top leadership on 13 April to mediate in solving the Black Sea Fleet issues, Volodymyr Bezkorovaynyy said: "Of course, it is time that the leaders of the two states and peoples—the Ukrainian and Russian—should themselves sort out every aspect of the matter. Where there is a will, there is a way. I would speak out in favor of adopting the proposal of the U.S. top leadership to be a third arbitration party during the Black Sea Fleet division."

Also today, Vice Admiral Volodymyr Bezkorovaynyy had a businesslike meeting with Lieutenant General Volodymyr Shkidchenko, the Odessa Military District commander.

Ukrainian Ships in Sevastopol Without Electricity

LD1504044094 Kiev UNIA in Ukrainian 2200 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Sevastopol, 14 April—According to the press service of the Naval Forces of Ukraine, power supply to the ships of Ukraine's Naval Forces moored in Sevastopol has been cut off since 11 April, although the Ukrainian side was not indebted to the financial department of the Black Sea Fleet. The supply of electricity to the Hetman Sahaydachnyy and the SKR-112 patrol-launch ships, as well as the Luts'k small antisubmarine ship has been cut off for unknown reasons. The Black Sea Fleet press center representative, Serhiy Dolzhykov, could not explain anything in this connection.

Black Sea Fleet Ships Embark on Combat Training

LD1504083694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0733 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow 15 April, TASS—Twelve ships of the Black Sea Navy have put to sea for combat training. These are planned exercises and they are in no way linked with the latest events in Odessa, ITAR-TASS was told by telephone by officials of the Navy's press centre on Friday.

According to the same source, three other ships of the Black Sea Navy had put out for planned exercises on Thursday. Therefore, taking part in the planned training mission in the open sea are fifteen ships of the Black Sea Navy.

According to information received from the press centre, a large landing ship left the Sevastopol base on Thursday to evacuate Black Sea Navy personnel, their families and property from Odessa. However, on the same day Ukrainian Defence Minister Vitaly Radetsky addressed a telegram to the commander of the Black Sea Navy, informing him that calls of Russian warships to Nikolayev, Ochakov, Ismail and Odessa were undesirable. The large landing craft was ordered to return to the base.

Reports from Sevastopol indicate that three ships of the Ukrainian Navy, anchored in the Navy's chief base, have been cut off from their shore power sources for the fourth day running. Now they have to consume their own fuel resources to remain operational. According to the official version of Black Sea Navy officials, who had cut off the power supply, this was done because the Ukrainian side had not paid its debts for the already consumed electricity.

However, chief of the Ukrainian Navy's financial service Colonel Viktor Kobernik claims that the debt for the electricity was settled.

Ukrainian, Slovak Border Authorities Agree on Cooperation

LD1404213994 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Negotiations between the chief border representatives of Ukraine, Valeriy Hubenko, and the Slovak Republic, (Pavol Nyunyuk), ended in Kiev on 14 April. The results of the work done in 1993 to protect the state borders of the two states were summed up and a mechanism to organize interaction for their protection in 1994 has been worked out.

The sides stated that the number of illegal border crossing attempts has increased of late. Criminal groupings remain to be active, there are instances of drug-trafficking and smuggling of fire arms and other kinds of weapons.

Valeriy Hubenko and his foreign counterpart also discussed the state of affairs at the border checkpoints as well as measures for the successful fulfillment of the agreements on the state border between Ukraine and the Slovak Republic.

National Affairs

Ministry Denies Plans To Capture Bases

WS1404200294 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] This evening, Radio Liberty informed about a news conference by Igor Kasatonov, deputy commander

of the Russian Navy, which was held in St. Petersburg. [Word indistinct] according to Igor Kasatonov, Russian units located in the Crimea were ordered to stand on alert. The admiral's reason for this was Ukraine's alleged intent to capture naval bases in [name indistinct], Mykolayev, and Ochakov.

The Defense Ministry press service commented on this statement by the Russian military leader calling it disinformation intended to create hysteria around the Black Sea Fleet. The press service considers Kasatonov's statement about Ukraine's plans to capture the mentioned bases as absolutely unfounded. At the same time, the press service stresses that there are no Russian military units on Ukrainian territory; the only units there are those subordinated to the presidents of Russia and Ukraine.

Kravchuk: Odessa Incident 'Over and Done With'

LD1504082794 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0700 GMT 15 Apr 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk stated on arrival in Moscow that the incident involving the Black Sea vessel and seamen in Odessa is over and done with. Kravchuk noted: As far as politicians are concerned, the main thing was to regard it precisely in this light. Moreover, the incident is not as big as it was made out to be. The Ukrainian president's view is that it is a signal to begin solving the Black Sea fleet's problems without delay.

Crimean President Replaces Ministers

AU1404140594 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 13 Apr 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "The Crimea: New Replacements"]

[Text] On the eve of the last session of the Crimean Supreme Council of old convocation that was held on 12 April under N. Bagrov's chairmanship, Ukrainian Radio programs were interrupted and the speech by Vyacheslav Lebedev, press secretary of the Crimean president, was broadcast live. He said that, by edict of [Crimean president] Yu. Meshkov, Minister of Internal Affairs of the Crimean Republic Oleksandr Plyuta had been dismissed from his post and replaced by Major General Valeriy Kuznetsov. Chairman of Ukraine's Security Service for the Crimean Republic Ivan Kolomytsev was also dismissed and replaced by Vladimir Lepikhov. Ministerial appointments were also made: Lyudmila Zaytseva became minister of finance and Andrey Chernyavskiy of economy.

The Presidium of the Crimean Supreme Council adopted a decision to hold a session of the newly elected parliament on 10 May 1994. The commission for the election of the Crimean people's deputies was authorized

to take upon itself the duties of the district electoral commission for Ukrainian presidential elections. N. Bagrov pointed out that the appointment of Crimean power ministers, without a coordination with corresponding Ukrainian departments, was illegal.

Ministry Rejects Decrees

LD1404164294 Kiev UNIAIR in Ukrainian 1230 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Simferopol, 14 Apr—Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov has issued a number of decrees appointing Anatoliy Franchuk, former first deputy chairman of the Crimean Cabinet of Ministers, as acting minister for the management of state enterprises in Crimea, and Lyudmila Zaytseva, as acting minister of finance. Andriy Chernyavskiy is appointed Crimea's acting minister of economy. Decrees have been issued on the dismissal of Militia Major General Oleksandr Plyuta, Crimea's internal affairs minister, and his replacement with Army Major General Valeriy Kuznetsov known for his dismissal from the post of Crimean Army Corps Commander in 1994 for his failure to obey a decree by the Ukrainian defense minister. Another President Meshkov decree dismisses General Ivan Kolomytsev, head of Crimea's security service, and replaces him with Retired Major General Volodymyr Lepikhov from the Crimean presidential staff.

Personnel of Crimea's Internal Affairs Ministry and Security Service have refused to comply with Meshkov's decrees. The premises of these departments are surrounded by unidentified armed individuals (according to some observers, the Crimean president's so-called personal bodyguards). The dismissed generals, Plyuta and Kolomytsev, are guarded by their supporters.

The Crimean president's decrees are subject to the Crimean Supreme Council's approval at its next session on 10 May. According to the law, the issued decrees contradict the Constitutions of both Ukraine and Crimea, as well as the law of Ukraine on the division of powers between state power bodies of Ukraine and Crimea, said Crimea's Supreme Council Chairman Mykola Bahrov.

Kravchuk Rescinds Meshkov Decrees

LD1404171394 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk has issued a decree rescinding the edicts by the president of Crimea on the acting chairman of the Crimea Republic Security Service, and on terminating the plenary powers of the acting chairman of the Crimea Republic Security Service as such that do not comply with the Constitution of Ukraine and the laws of our state in this sphere. The decree has been issued in connection with the appointment by the president of Crimea of Volodymyr Lepikhov to the post of acting chairman of the Crimea Republic Security Service and the termination of the plenary

powers of Ivan Kolomyitsev, acting chairman of the Crimea Security Service. The document emphasizes that the edicts by the president of Crimea violate the relevant laws of Ukraine, according to which the chairman of the Security Service of Crimea is appointed and dismissed.

Minister Rejects Loyalty Oath

LD1404212194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1934 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Newly appointed Crimean Interior Minister, Major-General Valeriy Kuznetsov said at a press conference in Simferopol today that his department would be working "outside politics." He stated he did not intend to swear an oath of loyalty to the Ukrainian people since he had already sworn the oath committing himself to serve not only to the Crimean and to the Ukrainian peoples but to all the peoples of the former USSR.

Kuznetsov recognized that Crimea was an integral part of Ukraine. However, he pointed out that he was not going to coordinate his activities with the Ukrainian president's representatives in Crimea. "There is the Crimean president for this purpose," he added emphasizing that he had not as yet met the Ukrainian president's representative and that he had no intention to do this. Kuznetsov suggested that the police must learn to live with the authorities. "Everyone who perpetrates a crime must be punished, whoever they may be," he said.

Kuznetsov refuted allegations that two planes with Ukrainian special military units were heading to Crimea. He said he had no information on corruption in Crimean law enforcement bodies, regardless of the fact that this issue had led to the resignation of former Crimean interior minister, Major-General Aleksandr Plyuta. Kuznetsov also stated that there were no Cossack military formations on Crimean territory. He did not take seriously people in a Cossack uniform.

Kuznetsov estimated the situation in Crimea as calm and he saw no reasons for declaring a state of emergency in the republic. He said his appointment, although provoking contradictory response among the Ukrainian leaders, was in strict conformity with the law.

Major-General Kuznetsov had been the commander of the Crimean army corps. He had also been the Crimean president's advisor on military issues.

Meshkov Views Kiev's Intentions

LD1404163494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1253 GMT 14 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Simferopol April 14 TASS—The appointment of a Ukrainian presidential representative to the Crimea and the recent seizure of a Black Sea unit by Ukrainian paratroopers in Odessa are "links in one and the same chain. They are designed to destabilize the situation and

could be used as a justification for introducing Ukrainian presidential rule into the Crimea", according to Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov. Meshkov complained to ITAR-TASS that the Kiev administration's actions are preventing Crimea's new leadership from getting down to work. "We have not been given even the least bit of breathing space so that we could start working on economic decisions under normal conditions", he said.

Commenting on the recent elections to the new Crimean parliament, where the electoral bloc "Russia" holds a majority of the seats, Meshkov noted that the administration and parliament had the same goals, which "gives us the possibility of working constructively". In reply to a question about the relations between the Crimean and Russian leadership, Meshkov said, "let me put it this way: The Crimean president does not feel isolated, and the "climate" of Russia's Crimean policy has become significantly warmer".

Meshkov Signs Edict on Currency Regulation

LD1504090694 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0400 GMT 15 Apr 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Crimea's President Yuriy Meshkov has signed an edict on currency regulation and currency control. According to this, the only legitimate means of payment in Crimea is the national currency—the karbovanets. The currency of other states, including the Russian ruble, is treated as foreign currency on Crimean territory. Crimean Deputy Prime Minister Saburov had previously reported that the law on currency regulation envisaged setting up a currency exchange in Crimea.

Election Runoff Results Published

Chernihiv Oblast

944K1082A Lvov POST-INFORM in Ukrainian 11 Apr 94 p 2

["Election Results in Chernihiv Oblast"]

[Text] In Chernihiv's Desnyanskyy electoral district [E.D.] No. 439 and Novozavodskyy e.d. No. 440, O. Stepanov and I. Symonenko, both representatives of the Interregional Reform Bloc [MBR], defeated two Rukh members in the election on 10 April.

In Nizhyn e.d. No. 441, Chumachenko (CPU), a collective farm chairman, defeated Labor Minister M. Kaskevych; in Bakhmach e.d. No. 443, Chumak (CPU), deputy chairman of the rayon state administration, defeated a collective farm chairman; in Bobrovytsi e.d. No. 444, P. Sheyko, chairman of the rayon state administration, defeated the chairman of the rayon council; in Kozelets e.d. No. 446, former Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol defeated a CPU member; in Mena e.d. No. 447,

Oleksandr Borovyk (CPU), chairman of the All-Ukrainian Council of Collective Farm Chairmen, defeated Otrosh, a Ministry of Foreign Affairs secretary; in Ripky e.d. No. 449, Anatoliy Dron, chairman of the State Committee on Municipal Services, defeated a CPU member; in Chernihiv e.d. No. 450, Henadiy Dolzhenko, first secretary of the oblast committee of the CPU, defeated the director of the Nova Joint-Stock Company. The election in Pryluky e.d. No. 442 was invalid because voter turnout was lower than required by law.

Dnepropetrovsk Oblast

944K1082B Lvov POST-INFORM in Ukrainian
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["Election Results in Dnipropetrovsk (Dnepropetrovsk) Oblast"]

[Text] In the second round of elections to the Supreme Council of Ukraine held on 10 April, in Vuzivsky e.d. No. 75, A. Radchenko (MBR), chairman of the municipal bank, defeated the CPU candidate; in Zhovtnevy e.d. No. 76, S. Mykhaylenko (MBR) defeated the Ukrayina bloc candidate; in Industrialnyy e.d. No. 77, L. Kostyuchenko, chairman of the rayon council, defeated the MBR candidate; in Kirovsky e.d. No. 78, V. Merkulov, mayor of Dnipropetrovsk, defeated the Ukrayina bloc candidate; in Petrovsky e.d. No. 81, S. Chukmakov, deputy director of the pipe plant, defeated Prepina (Ukrayina [Ukraine] Bloc); in Samarsky e.d. No. 82, V. Sheyko (Socialist Party of Ukraine [SPU]) defeated incumbent People's Deputy of Ukraine Serhiy Pravydenko, editor of the newspaper *Holos Ukrayiny*; in Dniprovsky e.d. No. 84, L. Hamanyuk defeated the Ukraine Bloc candidate; in Zavodsky e.d. No. 85, the winner was Communist A. Karpenko; in Dzerzhynsky e.d. No. 87, D. Stepanyuk, chairman of the district executive committee, defeated the Ukraine Bloc candidate; in Dovhyntsiivsky e.d. No. 88, V. Kocherha (Party of Labor) defeated the deputy director of Kryvorizhstal; in Inhuletsky e.d. No. 89, V. Melnyk, a state farm director, defeated a Communist; in Kryvbasivsky e.d. No. 90, V. Hurov (Party of Labor) defeated the Rukh candidate; in Ternivsky e.d. No. 91, the deputy chief of the administration of internal affairs defeated incumbent People's Deputy of Ukraine M. Korobko, a democrat; in Nikopolsky e.d. No. 94, K. Leshchenko, head of a cooperative, defeated an official in the Cabinet of Ministers; in Zakhidnodonbasky e.d. No. 97, V. Babych, president of the Ukrainian Financial Group Joint-Stock Company, defeated an assistant mine director; in Verkhnyodniprovsky e.d. No. 100, V. Omelych, a representative of the president's service, defeated a lecturer; in Nikopol e.d. No. 101, Yu. Tykhonov, a director, defeated the Ukraine Bloc candidate; in Novomoskovsk e.d. No. 102, V. Sadko, a collective farm chairman, defeated the Ukraine Bloc candidate.

None of the candidates in electoral districts Nos. 73, 74, 80, 83, 86, 92, 93, 95, 96, and 104 received the qualifying

number of votes. Elections in electoral districts Nos. 79, 98, and 105 were invalid because voter turnout was lower than required by law.

Mykolayiv Oblast

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["Election Results in Mykolayiv Oblast"]

[Text] In the second round of elections to the Supreme Council of Ukraine on 10 April, in Zavodsky e.d. No. 283, V. Yemelyanov (MBR) defeated H. Lukyanov, a Communist; in Leninsky e.d. No. 285, O. Bozhenko, first secretary of the oblast Komsomol committee, defeated O. Tolstykh, the Green World candidate; in Mykolayiv city e.d. No. 286, Yu. Zaporozhets defeated N. Pozdnikova, a Communist; in Voznesensk e.d. No. 288, Ye. Platovskyy, a state farm director, defeated the Rukh candidate; in Domashivka e.d. [NB TO EDITOR: thus in text, but should be Domanivka e.d.] No. 290, I. Hlukh, a collective farm director, defeated an official of the oblast state administration; in Mykolayiv rural e.d. No. 291, V. Palamarchuk (MBR) defeated a CPU member; in Novyy Buh e.d. No. 292, M. Chyvyuh (CPU), a collective farm chairman, defeated a Rukh supporter; in Snihurivka e.d. No. 293, where two state farm directors ran against each other, the seat was won by P. Shkrabak, a CPU member.

In Korabelnyy e.d. No. 284 (where People's Deputy of Ukraine Mykola Biloblotsky ran for office), Tsentralnyy e.d. No. 287 (where Anatoliy Ivanyuchenko, head of the oblast organization of the Ukrainian Republican Party [URP], was a candidate), and Pervomaysk e.d. No. 289 (where People's Deputy of Ukraine I. Hrytsay, chairman of the oblast council, ran for office), none of the candidates received the qualifying number of votes.

Crimea

944K1082D Lvov POST-INFORM in Ukrainian
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["Election Results in Crimea"]

[Text] Only 10 seats were decided in the second round of elections to the Supreme Council of Ukraine held on 10 April in Crimea's electoral districts. In Alushta e.d. No. 28, where two CPU members ran against each other, the seat was won by Kyrpachova; in Dzhanikoy e.d. No. 29, Pylypenko, an independent candidate, defeated Samsonov, the former chairman of the Council of Ministers of Crimea; in Krasnoperekopsk e.d. No. 32, Starovoytova, a member of the KPK [NB TO EDITOR: is this the Communist Party of Crimea? If so, perhaps the acronym CPC should be used in subsequent references in this report], defeated the URP candidate; in Feodosiya e.d. No. 34, Doroshevskyy, an independent candidate, defeated a member of the Republican Movement of Crimea [RDK]; in Bakhchysaray e.d. No. 36, Kohen

(KPK) defeated a female candidate of the Mejiles; in Kirovske e.d. No. 38, Krandakova, an economist, defeated the Mejiles candidate; in Lenine e.d. No. 40, Pshenychna, head of the education department, defeated the Mejiles candidate; in Simferopol rural e.d. No. 42, Piymenova, a Communist, defeated the representative of "Crimea with Ukraine"; in Balaklava e.d. No. 43, the seat was won by Bobrynyov, KPK member; in Haharinskyy e.d. No. 44, Shyrinin (MBR) defeated incumbent People's Deputy of Ukraine Vanyeyev, a supporter of the Russia Bloc.

Zaporizhzhya Oblast

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["Election Results in Zaporizhzhya Oblast"]

[Text] In the second round of elections to the Supreme Council of Ukraine held on 10 April, in Zhovtnevy e.d. No. 177, Yu. Syzonenko, a Communist, defeated T. Kudlay, doctor of juridical sciences; in Zavodskyy e.d. No. 178, the seat was won by Leonid Anisimov, a CPU member; in Komunarskyy e.d. No. 179, S. Kuzmenko, an employee of AvtoZAZ, defeated the Ukraine Bloc candidate; in Levanevskyy e.d. No. 180, M. Taran (CPU) defeated the chief of the investigation isolation prison [SIZO]; in Leninskyy e.d. No. 181, O. Kuzhel, the representative of the "My" [We] Bloc (which unites members of the Party of Democratic Rebirth of Ukraine [PDVU]), defeated the Ukraine Bloc candidate; in Ordzhonikidzenskyy e.d. No. 182, V. Ponedilko, a Communist, defeated Ye. Kostenko ("My" Bloc); in Khorvitskyy e.d. No. 183, the seat was won by People's Deputy of Ukraine Serhiy Sobolyev; in Shevchenkivskyy e.d. No. 184, F. Sunitsyn ("My" Bloc) defeated incumbent People's Deputy of Ukraine V. Izmalkov; in Berdyansk e.d. No. 185, Ye. Todorov, a CPU member, defeated the Rukh candidate; in Melitopol city e.d. No. 186, the seat was won by H. Uharov, an independent candidate; in Berdyansk e.d. No. 188, Industry Minister Oleksandr Holubchenko defeated a collective farm chairman; in Zaporizhzhya rayon e.d. No. 190, poet Borys Oliynyk (CPU) defeated a member of the the Peasants' Party of Ukraine [SelPU]; in Kamyanka-Dniprova e.d. No. 191, H. Lunyov, a member of SelPU, defeated an employee of the Zaporizhzhya AES; in Melitopol rayon e.d. No. 192, S. Tkachenko, editor of the newspaper *Novyy den* (close to the democrats), defeated a collective farm chairman; in Polohy e.d. No. 193, the seat was won by O. Yermak, deputy director of counterintelligence of the Security Service of Ukraine; in Pryazovske e.d. No. 194, where two collective farm chairmen ran against each other, the seat was won by O. Bryt, a member of the SPU. The election in Tokmak e.d. No. 187 was invalid because voter turnout was lower than required by law.

Poltava Oblast

944K1082F Lvov POST-INFORM in Ukrainian
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["Election Results in Poltava Oblast"]

[Text] On 10 April, in Poltava's Kyivskyy e.d. No. 317, V. Bilous, a member of the Union of Officers of Ukraine, defeated S. Osyka, deputy minister of external economic relations; in Leninskyy e.d. No. 318, V. Holovko, a member of the Union of Officers of Ukraine, defeated M. Kulchytskyy, the chairman of the local Prosvita [Enlightenment] Society; in Oktyabrskyy e.d. [NB TO EDITOR: thus in the text, but should be Zhovtnevy e.d.] No. 319, People's Deputy of Ukraine Vladyslav Nosov, a democrat, defeated a Communist; in Kremenchuk's Avtozavodskyy e.d. No. 321, Viktor Teren, a URP member, defeated a CPU member; in Hadyach e.d. No. 325, Mykola Kovalko, head of the State Oil and Gas Committee, defeated an official of the rayon state administration; in Karlivka e.d. No. 327, V. Kapustyan, a teacher representing the URP, defeated a collective farm chairman; in Lokhvytsya e.d. No. 329, O. Panchenko, a lawyer, defeated a lecturer; in Orzhitsya e.d. No. 330, O. Masenko, a collective farm chairman, defeated another collective farm chairman; in Poltava e.d. No. 331, People's Deputy of Ukraine Vasyl Stepenko, a collective farm chairman, defeated an agrofirma chairman. No deputy was elected in Khorol e.d. No. 33 because neither candidate received the qualifying number of votes. In the remaining electoral districts (five), elections were invalid because voter turnout was lower than required by law.

Khmelnitsky Oblast

944K1082G Lvov POST-INFORM in Ukrainian
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["Election Results in Khmelnytsky Oblast"]

[Text] On 10 April, in Khmelnytsky's Tsentralnyy e.d. No. 406, Pavlovskyy, the URP candidate, defeated Ya. Biryuk, the Rukh candidate; in Kamyanets-Podilskyy e.d. No. 407, Yablonskyy, the Rukh candidate, defeated a member of the CPU; in Shepetivka e.d. No. 409, Verkhohlyad, a collective farm chairman, defeated another collective farm chairman; in Volochysk e.d. No. 410, Holovko, an official of the agricultural administration, defeated a member of the SPU; in Horodok e.d. No. 411, Vinskyy, a CPU member, defeated the Rukh candidate; in Dunayivtsi e.d. No. 412, the deputy minister of agriculture (SPU) defeated the URP candidate; in Letychiv e.d. No. 414, Chyzh, a member of the SPU, won the parliamentary seat; in Chemerivtsi e.d. No. 416, the seat was won by Svyato, an associate of the Institute of Nuclear Research of the Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (the latter two candidates defeated collective farm chairmen). Runoff elections will be held in four electoral districts.

Cherkasy Oblast

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["Election Results in Cherkasy Oblast"]

[Text] On 10 April, in Cherkasy's Prydniprovskyy e.d. No. 418, M. Syrota, a democratically minded prorector of a local institute, defeated S. Hubar, member of the Democratic Party of Ukraine [DemPU]; in Smila e.d. No. 423, V. Royenko, a CPU member, defeated a member of Rukh; in Monastyrishche e.d. No. 424, O. Parubok, a CPU member, defeated V. Vasylenko, a journalist; in Zvenyhorodka e.d. No. 425, S. Pasko, a physician, defeated a representative of the oblast state administration; in Chyhyryn e.d. No. 428, he seat was won by I. Vasyura (SelPU), a collective farm chairman; in Chornobay e.d. No. 429, Petro Dusheyko, a member of SelPU, defeated V. Nimchenko, a member of the Supreme Court; in Shkola e.d. No. 430, former Agriculture Minister Oleksandr Tkachenko defeated Yuriy Boyko, a priest of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church.

Kirovohrad Oblast

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["Election Results in Kirovohrad Oblast"]

[Text] On 10 April, in Kirovohrad's Industrialnyy e.d. No. 224, V. Alyoshyn, the Rukh candidate, defeated a member of the CPU; in Tsentralnyy e.d. No. 225, V. Mishura, a CPU member, defeated the Rukh candidate; in Znamyanka e.d. No. 226, A. Salanskyy, a CPU member, defeated another Communist; in Svitlovodsk e.d. No. 228, Volodymyr Yavorivskyy defeated a CPU member; in Bobrynets e.d. No. 229, Vasyl Durdynets defeated a Communist; in Mala Vyska e.d. No. 231, S. Sas, a CPU member, defeated another CPU member; in Novoukrayinka e.d. No. 233, Tselykh, a Communist, defeated the candidate of the Ukraine Bloc; in Oleksandriya e.d. No. 234, Yevhen Marmazov, a leader of the CPU, defeated the chairman of the rayon council. No deputies were elected in three other electoral districts.

Donetsk Oblast

944K1082J Lvov POST-INFORM in Ukrainian
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["Election Results in Donetsk Oblast"]

[Text] In the second round of elections to the Supreme Council of Ukraine held on 10 April, in Budyonivskyy e.d. No. 107, V. Shcherban, deputy chairman of the city executive committee, defeated the CPU candidate; in Voroshylovskyy e.d. No. 108, S. Kyyashko (SPU) defeated the chairman of the district council; in Kyivskyy e.d. No. 110, acting Prime Minister Yukhym Zvyahilskyy defeated a Communist; in Kirovskyy e.d.

No. 111, the seat was won by A. Pysarenko, a Communist; in Kirovskyy- Shakhtarskyy e.d. No. 112, Yu. Boldyryev (Civic Congress of Ukraine [GKU]) defeated the candidate of the Socialist Party; in Kuybyshevskyy e.d. No. 113, B. Kozhevnikov, a Communist, defeated Mykola Krylov, cochairman of the Donetsk Strike Committee; in Leninskyy e.d. No. 114, Deputy Prime Minister of Ukraine Valentyn Landyk defeated the CPU candidate; in Petrovskyy e.d. No. 115, M. Azorov, the representative of the Party of Labor, defeated a Socialist; in Proletarskyy e.d. No. 116, V. Ampilohov, director of the mine administration, defeated a Communist; in Horlivka-Kalininskyy e.d. No. 118, Krasnyakov, a Communist, defeated the deputy chairman of the city council; in Horlivka-Mykytivskyy e.d. No. 119, V. Sikalov (CPU) defeated incumbent People's Deputy of Ukraine V. Chernenko; in Dzerzhynsk e.d. No. 121, H. Samofalov, candidate of the Party of Labor, defeated a CPU member; in Dobropillya e.d. No. 122, the seat was won by V. Kocherha (CPU); in Yenakiyev e.d. No. 124, Yakovenko, a Communist, defeated the representative of the Movement for the Restoration of the USSR; in Yunokomunarivsk e.d. No. 125, Professor Chechetov defeated a CPU member; in Kostyantynivka e.d. No. 126, where two CPU candidates ran against each other, the seat was won by L. Pasichna; in Kramatorsk e.d. No. 127, Kuznyetsov, a Communist, defeated the editor of the newspaper *Ekspress*; in Krasnoarmiysk e.d. No. 129, M. Zavarzin, a Communist, defeated H. Havrylchenko, also a Communist; in Makiyivka-Hirnytskyy e.d. No. 131, V. Moyseyenko (CPU) defeated a school principal; in Makiyivka- Radyanskyy e.d. [no number given], the seat was won by A. Tatarinov, an independent candidate; in Makiyivka-Chervonohradskyy e.d. No. 134, V. Pudryk, a Communist, defeated the deputy director of the metallurgical combine; in Mariupol-Zhovtnevy e.d. No. 135, M. Pozhyvanov, president of a MP [nor further identified] defeated a CPU member; in Mariupol- Illichivskyy e.d. No. 136, L. Miroshnychenko, deputy chairman of the council of lessees [orendariv], defeated a Communist; in Mariupol- Ordzhonikidzenskyy e.d. No. 137, V. Shestakov, a CPU member, defeated the chairman of the trade union committee of the Azovstal Production Association; in Mariupol-Prymorskyy e.d. No. 138, V. Tereshchuk, a Communist, defeated a businessman; in Slovyansk e.d. No. 140, A. Khmilyovyy, a Communist, defeated A. Novak (SPU); in Snizhne e.d. No. 141, A. Kaminskyy, a Socialist, defeated the candidate of the Party of Labor; in Torez e.d. No. 142, Mykola Surhay, the chairman of the State Coal Industry Committee [Derzhvuhleprom], defeated the CPU candidate; in Khartsyzk e.d. No. 143, A. Peyhalaynen, a Communist, defeated Petro Tsekhmister, director of a private mine; in Shakhtarsk e.d. No. 144, O. Shamarin (CPU) defeated a mine director; in Yasynuvata e.d. No. 145, the seat was won by O. Kozhushko (supported by the Party of Labor, CPU, and SPU); in Amvrosiivka e.d. No. 146, A. Matspan, a lecturer, defeated Yuriy Baskakov (Liberal Party of Ukraine [LPU]); in Artemivsk e.d. No. 147, incumbent People's Deputy of Ukraine O. Panasovskyy (CPU) defeated V. Chuprun,

the chairman of the oblast council; in Volodarske e.d. No. 149, M. Dondyk, a Communist, defeated the head of the agricultural administration of the oblast state administration; in Maryinka e.d. No. 151, V. Oleksiyenko, an independent candidate, defeated the chairman of the rayon trade union council; in Slovyansk e.d. No. 153, A. Petrenko (SelPU) defeated a Socialist.

In Kalininskyy e.d. No. 109, where V. Vecherko, the son-in-law of Yu. Zvyahilskyy, and S. Ilyin, a Communist, ran for office, neither candidate obtained the qualifying number of votes. The elections in Makiyivka-Tsentrallyy e.d. No. 133, Selydove e.d. No. 139, and Novozovsk e.d. No. 152 were not valid, because voter turnout was lower than required by law.

Sumy Oblast

944K1082K Lvov POST-INFORM in Ukrainian
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["Election Results in Sumy Oblast"]

[Text] In the second round of elections to the Supreme Council of Ukraine held on 10 April, in Hlukhiv e.d. No. 345, Mykola Lavrynenko (SPU) defeated Deputy Economy Minister V. Naumenko; in Konotop e.d. No. 346, the seat was won by Vitaliy Yurkovskyy (CPU); in Okhtyrka e.d. No. 347, Volodymyr Tkachenko (supported by Rukh) defeated the head of the oblast association of industrialists; in Shostka e.d. No. 349, Volodymyr Storizhko, a candidate with party affiliation, defeated the Rukh candidate; in Bilopillya e.d. No. 350, the seat was won by People's Deputy of Ukraine V. Cherep; in Krolevets e.d. No. 351, V. Radko (CPU), a collective farm chairman, defeated an official of the rayon state administration; in Sumy e.d. No. 353, People's Deputy of Ukraine Oleksiy Chernyavskyy (SelPU) defeated the oblast procurator; in Trostyanets e.d. No. 354, the seat was won by Yuriy Bublyk, a Communist.

None of the candidates in Kovpakyvskyy e.d. No. 344, Yampil e.d. No. 355, and Lebedyn e.d. No. 322 obtained the qualifying number of votes. The election in Zarichnyy e.d. No. 343 was invalid, because voter turnout was lower than required by law.

Lvov Oblast

944K1082L Lvov POST-INFORM in Ukrainian
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["Election Results in Lviv Oblast"]

[Text] In Lviv's [Lvov] Shevchenkivskyy e.d. No. 266, the election was won by Oleksandr Shandryuk, the URP candidate (he defeated Oleksandr Holub, first secretary of the oblast committee of the CPU); in Sambir e.d. No. 268, Taras Protsevyat, the candidate of the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists [KUN], defeated Ivan Kelman, the general director of the Lvivavtotrans Transport Production Association; in Stryy e.d. No. 269, Ihor Ostash, the director of the International School of Ukrainian

Studies, defeated Yevhen Kukhar, first deputy chairman of the rayon state administration; in Brody e.d. No. 271, People's Deputy of Ukraine Dmytro Chobit, head of the rayon organization of Rukh (lately, he received more support from Stepan Khmara than from Rukh), defeated Serhiy Reverchuk, the URP candidate; in Horodok e.d. No. 273, People's Deputy of Ukraine Taras Stetskiv ("New Wave") defeated People's Deputy of Ukraine Iryna Kalynets (KUN); in Drohobych e.d. No. 274, Oleksandr Lavrynovych, deputy chairman of Rukh, defeated Serhiy Zhyzhko, head of the secretariat of KUN; in Zhydachiv e.d. No. 275, Oleh Vitovych, the Lviv Oblast regional commander of the Ukrainian National Self-Defense Force [UNSO], defeated Mykola Horyn, chairman of the oblast council (supported by Rukh); in Zhovkivskyy e.d. No. 276, Petro Shvydkyy, member of KUN, defeated Oleh Kuntyy, the URP candidate; in Zolochiv e.d. No. 277, Levko Hlukhivskyy, the KUN candidate, defeated Oleh Pavlyshyn, the chairman of the oblast organization of the URP; in Turka e.d. No. 281, Hryhoriy Demyan, a member of KUN, defeated Mykhaylo Hladiy, deputy chairman of the oblast state administration; in Yavoriv e.d. No. 282, Yaroslav Illyasevych, chief of staff of the Lviv Oblast regional command of UNSO, defeated Zoreslava Romovska, a law professor who ran as an independent candidate supported by Rukh and the New Wave.

No deputies were elected in Lviv's Halytskyy e.d. No. 260, Levandivskyy e.d. No. 262, and Frankivskyy e.d. No. 265 (one of the candidates in the Levandivskyy electoral district was People's Deputy of Ukraine Orest Vlokh, member of the DempU). More than 90 percent of the electorate voted in the Horodok and Sambir electoral districts.

Volyn Oblast

944K1082M Lvov POST-INFORM in Ukrainian
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["Election Results in Volyn Oblast"]

[Text] The elections held on 10 April in Volyn Oblast's Lutsk e.d. No. 64 were won by Deputy Prime Minister Mykola Zhulynskyy (who defeated Stanislav Pkhydenko, first secretary of the oblast committee of the CPU); in Kovel e.d. No. 67, People's Deputy of Ukraine Andriy Mostyskyy defeated Hrytsenko, the SelPU candidate; in Horokhiv e.d. No. 69, Kateryna Vashchuk, head of an agrofirma, defeated Petro Kralyuk (URP), dean of the philology department at Volyn University; in Kamin-Kashyrskyy e.d. No. 70, Anton Buteyko, head of the president's service for international affairs, defeated Mykola Pinchuk, deputy minister for the protection of the population from the aftermath of Chernobyl; in Stara Vyzhivka e.d. No. 72, Vasyl Kornelyuk, head of the Ratne Rayon State Administration, defeated Mykola Shevchuk (SelPU), a collective farm director. No deputies were elected in Tsentrallyy e.d. No. 65, Novovolynsk e.d. No. 68, and Kivertsy e.d. No. 71.

Chernivtsi Oblast

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["Election Results in Bukovyna"]

[Text] In the elections held on 10 April, in Chernivtsi's Leninskyy e.d. No. 431, Professor Taras Kyiak, head of the oblast organization of the DemPU, defeated Volodymyr Dovheshko, first secretary of the oblast committee of the CPU; in Hlyboka e.d. No. 434, Ivan Popesku, member of the Rumanian Language and Culture Society, defeated Korneliy Nikitovych, deputy head of the oblast administration of education; in Zastavna e.d. No. 435, Heorhiy Manchulenko, head of the regional organization of Rukh, defeated Mykola Ivanovych, chief of the Khotyn Rayon Department of Internal Affairs; in Kelmentsi e.d. No. 436, Hryhorii Dovhanchyk, head of the peasants' union, defeated Vasyl Burlaka, deputy head of the Sokyryany Rayon State Administration representing the democratic bloc Bukovynska zlahoda [Bukovyna Accord]; in Novoselytsya e.d. No. 438, Yuriy Buzduhan, an official in the Anti-Monopoly Committee of Ukraine, member of the Social Democratic Party of Ukraine [SDPU] and New Ukraine [Nova Ukrayina], defeated D. Rata. Runoff elections will be held in Pershotravnevyi e.d. No. 432 and Vyzhnytsya e.d. No. 433.

Ternopil Oblast

944K1082O Lvov POST-INFORM in Ukrainian
11 Apr 94 pp 18-19

["Election Results in Ternopil Oblast"]

[Text] In the second round to voting on 30 April [NB TO EDITOR: thus in original, but presumably should be 30 March?] in Ternopil Oblast, in Berezhany e.d. No. 358, Levko Horokhivskyy, deputy chairman of the URP, defeated Zynoviy Rayinchuk, the head of the rayon branch of the National Bank of Ukraine; in Zboriv e.d. No. 362, Andriy Zarudnyy, cochairman of the regional organization of Rukh, defeated Ivan Polevyy, head of the oblast organization of the URP; in Terebovlya e.d. No. 364, Bohdan Ternopilskyy (URP), deputy chief of the president's service on territorial issues, defeated Roman Kuper, deputy chairman of the Ternopil city council, the candidate of the Ukrainian Conservative Republican Party [UKRP].

In Halytskyy e.d. No. 356, where the race was between a Rukh candidate (Ihor Hereta) and an URP candidate (Yaroslav Dzhodzhyn), and in Kremenchuk e.d. [NB TO EDITOR: thus in the original, but should be Kremenchuk e.d.], No. 363 (the race was between Bohdan Kulchytskyy [Rukh], chairman of the city council, and Serhiy Shtohun, head of the Shumske Rayon Court), none of the candidates obtained the qualifying number of votes.

Transcarpathia

944K1082P Lvov POST-INFORM in Ukrainian
11 Apr 94 p 19

["Election Results in Zakarpattia Oblast"]

[Text] On 10 April, in the second round of elections to the Supreme Council of Ukraine, in Mukacheve e.d. No. 168, Vasyl Ulynets, first deputy chairman of the oblast state administration, defeated Vasyl Iltyo, deputy chairman of the Mukacheve city council; in Berehove e.d. No. 169, Mykhaylo Tovt, chairman of the rayon state administration, defeated Shandor Fodov, head of the oblast's Society of Hungarian Culture; in Vynohradiv e.d. No. 170, Serhiy Cheypesh (Christian Democratic Party of Ukraine [KhDPU]), a teacher, defeated Elemer Kovach, a pensioner of pro-Hungarian and pro-Ruthenian orientation; in Irshava e.d. No. 171, Serhiy Ustych, first deputy chairman of the oblast state administration and one of the authors of the proposal for the free economic zone [VEZ] in Zakarpattia, defeated Lyubov Karavanska, candidate of the Green Party of Ukraine (L. Karavanska's defeat may have been prompted by the active support she received from the unregistered "Pryvatna sprava" [Private Business] fund, whose illegal status was reported in the local mass media on the eve of the election); in Tyacheve e.d. No. 174, Ivan Korshynskyy, docent at Uzhhorod University (father of the well-known singer), defeated Volodymyr Bohachyk, deputy chief physician of the rayon hospital; in Uzhhorod rural e.d. No. 175, Mykhaylo Dancha, chairman of the rayon state administration, defeated Mykola Kovach, chairman of the rayon Society of Hungarian Culture. In Uzhhorod e.d. No. 167 (candidates—Vasyl Prokopets, branch manager of Lisbank, and Viktor Hornyak, president of the VIN Joint Venture), Khust e.d. No. 176 (candidates—Mykhaylo Dzhandza of Rukh and Volodymyr Kuli, director of the Petrol Joint Venture), and Svalyava e.d. No. 173 (where both candidates were representatives of commercial structures), none of the candidates received the qualifying number of votes.

Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast

944K1082Q Lvov POST-INFORM in Ukrainian
11 Apr 94 p 19

["Election Results in Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast"]

[Text] On 10 April, in Kosiv e.d. No. 200 of Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast, Economy Minister Roman Shepek defeated (with 50.1 percent of the vote) Vasyl Hrechanyuk, an economist; in Nadvirna e.d. No. 201, Mykhaylo Kostytskyy, dean of the law faculty at Lviv University, defeated People's Deputy of Ukraine Dmytro Zakharuk; in Rozhnyativ e.d. No. 203, Borys Kozhyn, former commander of the Ukrainian Navy (supported by Rukh), defeated Orest Dychkovskyy, the KUN candidate; in Snyatyn e.d. No. 204, Lidiya Hryhorovych, a physician, defeated Ivan Hnidan, also a physician; in [NB TO EDITOR: the name and number of

electoral district is missing in text, but probably Tlumach e.d., since that is the district that Osadchuk represented in the former Supreme Council], Petro Osadchuk, a poet and a deputy to the old Supreme Council of Ukraine, defeated Roman Luchytysky, the Rukh candidate.

Rivne Oblast

944K1082R Lvov POST-INFORM in Ukrainian
11 Apr 94 p 19-20

["Election Results in Rivne Oblast"]

[Text] In Rivne's Veresnevyi e.d. No. 333, Volodymyr Kostunets, a member of Rukh, defeated Yuriy Lutsenko, chairman of the city committee of the SPU, with 56.3 percent of the vote; in Zamkovyi e.d. No. 334, Roman Omelchuk, a Rukh member, defeated Serhiy Denysenko, a CPU member; in Dubno e.d. No. 335, Vasyl Chervoni, chairman of the regional organization of Rukh, defeated the chairman of the rayon council; in Hoshcha e.d. No. 337, Bohdan Yaroshynsky (URP), first deputy head of the rayon state administration, defeated a collective farm chairman; in Dubrovysya e.d. No. 338, Mykola Khomych, a lawyer (candidate of the pro-Rukh bloc "Choice-94" [Vybir-94]), defeated the chief engineer of the state timber enterprise [derzhlishosp]; in Zdobuniv e.d. No. 339, Oleh Matkovsky, a lawyer (candidate of "Choice-94"), defeated Andriy Dolnyy, chairman of the rayon council (supported by the CPU/SPU); in Rivne e.d. No. 341, Mykola Porovskyy defeated Volodymyr Piyutynsky, chairman of an agrofirma who was twice named "Hero of Socialist Labor" (supported by the "left"); in Sarny e.d. No. 342, Oleksandr Buryachynsky, chairman of the board of directors of a leased enterprise, defeated the chairman of the rayon council, who was supported by the SPU/CPU. No deputies were elected in Volodymyrets e.d. No. 336 (the independent candidate received 42 percent of the vote and the former first secretary of the oblast committee of the CPU, 31 percent) and in Kostopil e.d. No. 340 (the URP member received 40 percent and the director of the state timber enterprise [lishosp], 44.5 percent).

Commission Updates Results

LD1304173194 Kiev UNLAR in Ukrainian 1415 GMT
13 Apr 94

[Text] Kiev, 13 Apr—Ivan Yemets, chairman of the Central Electoral Commission, held a news conference on the preliminary official results of the parliamentary election in Ukraine. According to Ivan Yemets, 338 people's deputies have been elected to date, including 129 nominated by labor collectives, 120 by groups of electors, and 89 by parties. The following parties won the following number of seats:

The Communist Party of Ukraine—86
Rukh—20
Peasant Party of Ukraine—18

Socialist Party of Ukraine—14
Ukrainian Republican Party - 8

Other parties won between one and five seats; 169 deputies have no party affiliation. The newly elected deputies include 12 women and 56 deputies of the former parliament.

Asked about the course of the election campaign in Artemovskiy constituency No 1 in Kiev, Ivan Yemets said there had been no official complaints either from Rukh or official observers. There had been mutual claims from the teams of both candidates. He said that 19,126, or 45.04 percent, voted for Kostyantyn Morozov and 19,532, or 45.99 percent, voted for Viktor Medvedchuk.

Ivan Yemets gave explanations on certain points of the law on elections. He emphasized, in particular, that candidates who lost the election could not be nominated in repeat elections. Yemets believes Ukraine should introduce "positive voting" in the future; that is, marking the chosen candidate on the ballot paper rather than crossing out all those the elector is voting against. He said: "Ukraine's election law needs the hand of a lawyer. Unfortunately, the law was drafted by Anatoliy Tkachuk, not a lawyer but an engineer."

Rukh Nationalists Defeated

LD1504093394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0753
GMT 15 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Gordeyev]

[Text] Donetsk April 15 TASS—Contrary to all pessimistic forecasts, Ukraine has elected a new Supreme Soviet (parliament). A total of 337 deputies were elected as a result of the voting, extended for two weeks. This is quite enough for the parliament to start working. Elections were recognised as invalid in 113 constituencies, and run-off elections will be held there.

It is clear already that the hegemony of the nationalistic ideology of the Rukh party in Ukraine was dealt a crushing blow. The fact that more than one third of deputies belong to the bloc of the left-wing forces (86 communists, 14 socialists and 18 members of the Peasants' Party) is not the most important of all. There is another thing which is even more important: The elections showed vividly that the left-bank and right-bank parts of Ukraine have different concepts of the country's future.

The industrially developed eastern regions of Ukraine demonstrated most convincingly what they want: The overwhelming majority of their residents voted for representatives of left-wing parties and movements and for industrial managers. No one could forecast the tremendous defeat suffered by national-radicals in the biggest regions of Ukraine. The Donetsk and Lugansk regions sent left-wing deputies to parliament and strengthened their anti-nationalistic stand by the results of local

referendums. The Donets coal basin (Donbass) voted unambiguously for the equality of the Russian and Ukrainian languages, for Ukraine's joining of the CIS and its interparliamentary assembly, as well as for the federal setup of Ukraine. It remains to be seen whether or not deputies from the eastern regions of Ukraine will manage to prove in parliament the expediency of their attitude to those problems.

This is not going to be easy, however. Vyacheslav Chornovil, leader of the people's Rukh party, stated point-blank on the second day after the elections that his party, which got 38 seats in parliament, intended to further oppose both Ukraine's joining of the CIS and the equality of the two languages in the independent Ukraine. Observers do not rule out a possibility of a split in the new parliament according to the territorial principle. Many people believe that the first session, scheduled for mid-May, will be held in an atmosphere of anti-Russian and anti-communist hysteria, because the western regions of Ukraine again sent to parliament, together with popular fighters for the independent Ukraine, several members of UNA-UNSO [Ukrainian National Assembly-Ukrainian National Self-Defense], which is an openly fascist organisation. National-radicals do not conceal their intention to give a "farewell performance" on April 22 and to use the last session of the current Supreme Soviet for setting the tone for the speeches of their successors. However, a political debate will hardly be long in the new parliament, because this will be mortally dangerous for the Ukrainian economy, nearly brought to a standstill, and for the destitute Ukrainian population.

Results Analyzed

944K1083A Lviv POST-INFORM in Ukrainian 11 Apr 94 pp 4-10

["Will 10 April Deepen the Zbruch River?"]

[Text] So far, the elections to the new Supreme Council of Ukraine have gone through three stages: a first round on 27 March, a second round of voting in a portion of electoral districts on 3 April, and a second round of voting in the majority of electoral districts on 9-10 April.

The first round did not produce a large number of new parliamentarians (only 49), and it would have been risky to predict the composition of the new Supreme Council on the basis of these results. However, it is worthwhile to recall who the first winners were.

Two well-known democrats were elected in Kiev in the first round—Volodymyr Lanovyy and Serhiy Holovaty. To everyone's surprise, the only outright winner in Crimea, Valentyn Horbatov, the chairman of an agrofirm (i.e., collective farm), was appointed the presidential representative to the restive peninsula, provoking a stormy reaction from the Republican Movement of Crimea [RDK]. The winners in the first round in Luhansk Oblast were six Communists and one private businessman, and in Donetsk Oblast, five Socialists/

Communists (including Petro Symonenko, first secretary of the Central Committee of the CPU), a representative of the Liberal Party [LPU], and the well-known independent incumbent deputy to the Supreme Council of Ukraine, Oleksandr Shekhovtsov. The Communists won one seat each in Odessa and Zaporizhzhya oblasts, and Volodymyr Marchenko, a leader of the Socialist Party of Ukraine [SPU], won a seat in Sumy Oblast. A candidate from yet another "leftist" party, the so-called Peasants' Party of Ukraine [SelPU], won a seat in Dnipropetrovsk Oblast. In Chernihiv Oblast, the first round brought victories to the well-known Leonid Kuchma and Ivan Plyushch, in Zhytomyr Oblast, to Health Minister Yuriy Spizhenko, and in Zakarpattia Oblast, to Transport Minister Orest Klimpush. In Kiev Oblast, fate smiled on two collective farm chairmen.

Voters in the western part of the country painted an entirely different picture. In Lviv Oblast, seats were won in the first round by four representatives of the New Wave alliance (including Ihor Yukhnovskyy and Viktor Pynzenyk), two Rukh members (one of them, Les Tanyuk), one representative of the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists [KUN], one independent candidate, and Stepan Khmara, the leader of the Ukrainian Conservative Republican Party [UKRP]. In Ternopil Oblast, seats were won by Rukh leader Vyacheslav Chornovil and by one representative each from the Ukrainian Republican Party [URP], KUN, and the Ukrainian National Assembly [UNA] (a few days before the election in Ternopil Oblast, a candidate who was a sympathizer of the Ukrainian National Assembly-Ukrainian National Self-Defense Force [UNA-UNSO] was seriously injured by a shot to the head). The winners in Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast included the leader of the local KUN, as well as a whole group of prominent political figures, headed by People's Deputy of Ukraine Stepan Volkovetskyy, the chairman of the oblast council (it was he who invited Volodymyr Pylypchuk, the distinguished economist, Pavlo Movchan, chairman of the All-Ukrainian Prosvita [Enlightenment] Society, Volodymyr Mulyava, hetman of the Ukrainian Cossacks, and Yevhen Pronyuk, chairman of the Union of Former Victims of Repression in Ukraine, to run for office in this oblast to spite Vyacheslav Chornovil). These newly elected people's deputies were supported by the Ukraine Bloc, headed by Levko Lukyanenko. In Bukovyna [i.e. Chernivtsi Oblast], Heorhiy Filipchuk, a democrat who heads the oblast administration of education, won a seat in the first round, while Oleksandr Skipalsky, chief of the Main Directorate of Military Intelligence of the Ministry of Defense, who had the support of KUN and URP, won in Volyn Oblast.

The clearly defined division between west and east was disturbed by another democrat—Hryhoriy Omelchenko, the chief of the Ukrainian Security Service's Directorate for Combatting Corruption and Organized Crime, who was elected in industrial Kremenchuk (Poltava Oblast).

Nor was there a shortage of distinguished losers in the first round. Those who will not sit in the new parliament

include the well-known Socialists/Communists Oleksandr Kotsyuba (defeated in Vinnytsya) and Serhiy Dorohuntsov (defeated in Kiev), as well as the equally well-known Ukrainophobe, Oleksandr Charodyeyev (Donetsk). Another Ukrainophobe, Valeriy Meshcheryakov, the leader of the chauvinistic Civic Congress of Ukraine (GKU) (he conducted his campaign in Kharkiv under the slogan: "Valera [Valeriy]—yes! Bandera—no!), advanced to the second round together with Volodymyr Hrynyov, the well-known cochairman of the Interregional Reform Bloc [MBR], but then took fright and quit the race.

Also among the losers in Kharkiv were the once popular Henrikh Altunyan and Andriy Sukhorukov, as well as Yuriy Haysynskyy, the former deputy procurator general, notorious for his shady deals.

Valeriy Ivasyuk, the well-known Rukh activist, was defeated in Poltava Oblast, and Dmytro Pavlychko was eliminated in Cherkasy Oblast (incidentally, he was but one of eight chairmen of the old Supreme Council's standing commissions who failed to advance past the first round of voting).

In Zakarpattia, both the leader of the post-Communists, Mykhaylo Voloshchuk (former first secretary of the oblast committee of the CPU and former chairman of the oblast council), and the leader of the democrats, Viktor Bed, were defeated. In Lviv, Mykhaylo Horyn, the leader of the URP, lost to Stepan Khmara. Other deputies to the old Supreme Council who failed to advance past the first round of voting in Lviv Oblast were Ihor Derkach, Ihor Hryniiv, Ivan Makar, Mykhaylo Shvayka, Lyubomyra Boychyshyn, the wife of Mykhaylo Boychyshyn and the hope of Rukh, Yuriy Shukhevych, the leader of the UNA, Academician Volodymyr Chernyak, the well-known Rukh economist, and the equally well-known former political prisoner and champion of the rights of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, Ivan Hel.

Four deputies to the old parliament were defeated in Ternopil Oblast, and the same number lost in Ivano-Frankivsk. Five former deputies lost their seats in Volyn Oblast, where the leaders of the local Rukh and URP battled each other furiously in one district and were both defeated (the seat was won by Deputy Prime Minister Mykola Zhulynskyy). Among those failing to advance to the second round in Western Ukraine were the minister of forestry, the deputy minister of energy, the former deputy minister of finance, and the distinguished economist, Mykola Syvulskyy. In Rivne, the much anticipated victory did not materialize for Valeriy Korotkov, the very rich but not very well-disposed to Ukraine Russian businessman with a criminal past (as was later revealed, the money that he spent so lavishly on his campaign came from the \$300,000 that he had misappropriated from funds received for a different purpose from the American company, Communications and Computer Services of Nevada).

With respect to the contingent that advanced to the second round, both P. Symonenko, the leader of the CPU, and V. Chornovil, leader of Rukh, could be happy about the results. Of the more than 200 candidates that the Central Leadership of Rukh supported, 91 made it through the first round (this number does not include the democratic candidates that were not on this list). The picture in Kiev was particularly heartening (despite the overall apathy of the capital's electorate). Here, the candidates from the list described above advanced past the first obstacle in 20 of 23 districts. Four candidates from the URP and the Congress of National Democratic Forces [KNDS] also advanced to the second round in the capital, and the same number from the UNA. The Communists stood a chance to win in only four districts.

In Donetsk Oblast, however, there were only four electoral districts in which candidates from the openly "leftist" parties (CPU, SPU, SelPU) failed to advance to the second round. In four districts, both the candidates who advanced to the second round were "leftists." In the rest of the districts, they were opposed either by candidates from the "Party of Power," or the "Red" directors' Party of Labor, or the Movement for the Restoration of the USSR, and only here and there, by individual businessmen. In Luhansk Oblast, true "Reds" failed to advance in only one district. In four districts, both candidates were "Reds," and in the rest, their opponents were for the most part people from the "Party of Power," the chauvinistic GKU, or the Russian "Don Cossacks." The Communists advanced to the second round in 13 of Crimea's 23 districts (in two districts, their victory is guaranteed), and candidates from Meshkov's Republican Movement of Crimea advanced in three other districts. There were, to be sure, also three candidates from Ukrainian organizations and two from the Crimean-Tatar Mejiles.

Competing in the second round of voting in Kharkiv's 14 electoral district, were 12 candidates from Hrynyov-Kuchma's MBR and their allies, nine Socialists/Communists, two chauvinists from the GKU, and two national-democrats (interestingly, on 27 March, immediately following the election, Kharkiv's "Reds" held a press conference, at which they promised that as soon as they came to power they would "put up against the wall [i.e., execute] first Khmara and Chornovil, followed by Kravchuk and Plyushch and all speculators, businessmen, and journalists"). In Odessa, in addition to three Communists, one member of the GKU, and numerous "independents," the candidates included Viktor Shyshkin, the former procurator general, Valentyn Symonenko, counsellor to the president (leader of one of the local clans), Pavlo Kudyukin, the notorious president of the Blasko Shipping Company (which swallowed up the Black Sea Shipping Company), two local political and commercial authorities who are fierce rivals—Eduard Hurvits, a Jew, and Oleksiy Kostushev, a Russian—and Anatoliy Vasserman, an aggressive supporter of an independent "Novorosiya."

The picture in the west was quite different. The first round of voting in Galicia showed clearly that the Communists had lost. Although their candidate received 20 percent of the vote in one electoral district of Ivano-Frankivsk, and another in Lviv got close to 15 percent, they were opposed by such "big guns" as V. Pylypchuk and V. Pynzenyk, who deprived them of any chance of victory. The candidates of the newly created party of Social-Nationalists also lost in all 21 districts of Lviv Oblast. Clad in their black shirts bearing an emblem resembling a swastika, they also failed to win the voters' confidence.

In Lviv Oblast, six candidates from Rukh, six from KUN, four from URP, two from UNA, one New Wave candidate, and several representatives of smaller parties advanced to the second round. The situation in Ternopil Oblast was as follows: Rukh—four candidates, URP—four, UKRP—one, and three "independents." In Forecarpathia [i.e., Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast], where parties do not wield much influence for some reason, there were seven "independent" candidates, one from KUN, two supported by Rukh, one member of the Democratic Party of Ukraine [DemPU], and one from the so-called Nationalistic Rukh.

In Zakarpattia Oblast, not a single openly "Red" candidate made it through the first round, and only three democrats advanced to the second round. Instead, there were five representatives of the "Party of Power," five businessmen, and three representatives of the Hungarian community. In Bukovyna [i.e. Chernivtsi Oblast], one Communist was offset by five national-democrats, six members of the "Party of Power," one member of New Ukraine, and one representative of the Rumanians. In Volyn and Rivne oblasts, of the candidates who advanced to the second round, nine were from leftist parties (or supported by them), 11 were representatives of the "Party of Power," six were Rukh members, five were Republicans, and one was a member of KUN.

In the rest of of Ukraine, the picture (not counting individual businessmen and the "independent" candidates of small liberal and left-centrist parties) that emerged was: for one representative of the MBR, there were approximately eight national-democrats, 10 "Reds," and 15 candidates from the "Party of Power" (the latter included Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council Vasyl Durdynets, Deputy Prime Minister Vasyl Yevtukhov, Industry Minister Oleksandr Holubchenko, Labor Minister Mykhaylo Kaskevych, the former and current ministers of agriculture, Oleksandr Tkachenko and Yuriy Karasyk, Deputy Agriculture Minister Mykhaylo Parasunko, Mykola Kovalko, chairman of the State Oil and Gas Committee, Oleksandr Stoyan, leader of the state trade unions, and former prime ministers, Vitold Fokin and Vitaliy Masol). A unique situation emerged in Kirovohrad Oblast, where 14 Communists, six democrats (including Volodymyr Yavorivskyy), and only two unaffiliated representatives of governing structures advanced to the second round.

And so, the second round of voting would decide everything. Even Vyacheslav Chornovil waited for the results of this round to make his decision regarding whether to aim for the presidency or for the parliamentary speaker's job.

The voting that was held in some districts on 3 April produced alarming results for the democrats. Although two more of their candidates won in two districts in Galicia (who else could have won?), in Kiev Oblast, Oles Shevchenko, a leading member of the URP, was defeated by Oleksandr Moroz, the leader of the SPU. In Cherkasy Oblast, a Communist and a minister defeated two Rukh members, and in Khmelnytskyi Oblast, the head of *Ukrrohrotekhservis* [Ukrainian State Concern for Providing Material and Technical Supplies and Services to the Agroindustrial Complex] routed yet another URP member. The seats in the rural districts of Kharkiv Oblast were won by six "Reds," seven people from the "Party of Power," and one independent lawyer. The national-democrats had to be satisfied with the victory of three collective farm chairmen whom they had supported (lacking any other choice) against openly Communist candidates. In Zhytomyr Oblast, all the national-democratic candidates lost (including Vitaliy Zhuravskyy, the leader of the Christian-Democrats), while the winners were two Communists, an independent businessman, a deputy minister, a general, a director of a production association, and two members of the "Party of Power."

In Bershad (Vinnytsya Oblast) both candidates lost (a Rukh member and Anatoliy Matviyenko, the chairman of the Workers' Congress who had formerly headed the Ukrainian Komsomol)—neither obtaining the qualifying 50 percent of the vote. The same happened in four other districts in the voting held on 3 April.

The days between 3 and 9 April passed in fierce battles. The State Television Company and the yellow rag *Kiyevskiy vedomosti* launched a campaign against Kostyantyn Morozov (who ran in Kiev)—there were many who wanted to eliminate a powerful rival from the upcoming presidential election. In Kharkiv, MBR members claimed that the Communists had used up their reserves of votes and would not win any more seats. In Odessa, two journalists from opposing camps were beaten up at the same time. In Cherkasy, the Socialist/Communists stuffed mail boxes with proclamations urging voters in the Prydniprovskyy electoral district to vote against both candidates, because, allegedly, one was a "democrat-Rukh member" and the other, a "liberal-nationalist." In neighboring Shpolia, Chornovil himself campaigned on behalf of Yuriy Boyko, a priest of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church.

In Lviv Oblast, Mykola Horyn, the chairman of the oblast council, with the help of people's deputies M. Kosiv and Ya. Kendzyor, launched a campaign to discredit his rivals from the UNA-UNSO (this was the first time they were openly called "fascists") and their patron Stepan Khmara. Meanwhile, inspired by its victory on

27 March, the New Wave announced its intention to transform itself from a preelection alliance into a public organization and to create a powerful centrist bloc with Rukh, the Ukrainian Republican Party, and possibly the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists as a counterbalance to the ultra-rightists.

Finally, the decisive weekend of 9-10 April arrived. Voting was held on Saturday in Kharkiv and in two electoral districts in Luhansk. In Luhansk Oblast, a Communist defeated a Socialist, and the pro-Communist chief of the local Security Service of Ukraine defeated a Communist.

In Kharkiv, seats were won by two Communists (one defeated Volodymyr Filenko, the leader of the Party of Democratic Rebirth of Ukraine [PDVU], who finally got his deserts after switching back and forth between the "nationalists" and the "Hrynyovites"), I. Mukhin, the leader of the local SPU, V. Alekseyev, member of the chauvinistic GKU, as well as Volodymyr Hrynyov and five of his supporters. The elections in three districts were invalid because voter turnout was lower than required by law, and in one district, no candidate received the qualifying percentage of votes.

Results from Sunday's vote began coming in on the morning of 11 April. Kiev presented the saddest picture—it was officially announced that elections in 13 of the city's 21 electoral districts (including the district in which K. Morozov had run) were invalid owing to voter turnout that fell below the legally required percentage. And in those districts, in which the election was valid, preliminary results showed that deputies had been elected in only three districts. In view of the high voter turnout throughout most of Ukraine and the government's great unwillingness to see Kiev's democrats in parliament, the results in Kiev appear quite suspicious.

In Donetsk, seats were won on 10 April by Acting Prime Minister Yukhym Zvyahilskyy, Deputy Prime Minister Valentyn Landyk, Derzhvuhleprom [State Coal Industry Committee] Chairman Mykola Surhay and two other representatives of the "Party of Power," 22 Socialists/Communists, two members of the directors' Party of Labor, Yuriy Boldyrev, a vehement supporter of the GKU, and five independent candidates (unfortunately, Petro Tsekhmister, the director of the first private mine in the Donbas and a sincere Ukrainian patriot, was defeated). Thirteen deputies were not elected in Crimea because they failed to receive the qualifying number of votes, and of the ten who were elected, half were Communists.

The preliminary results of the election on 10 April on the territories of some oblasts in Central and Southern Ukraine (Sumy, Chernihiv, Poltava, Cherkasy, Kirovohrad, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhya, Mykolayiv, and Khmelnytsky) present the following picture: seats were won by 37 "Reds," two members of the Party of Labor, six members of the MBR, three dozen representatives of the "Party of Power," four members of the URP, three

Rukh members, four PDVU members, one member of DemPU (Volodymyr Yavorivskyy), two members of the Union of Officers of Ukraine, and 12 "independents" (who might also turn out to be Communists). Poltava Oblast proved to be the most "anti-Communist"—not a single true "Red" won here.

In each of these oblasts, there were two or three districts in which the elections were invalid because of insufficient voter turnout or no deputy was elected owing to a failure of both candidates in a district to receive the qualifying number of votes. The exception was Dnipropetrovsk Oblast, where a total of ten districts suffered from "abstinence." Vitold Fokin and Deputy Prime Minister Vasyl Yevtukhov failed to win parliamentary seats in these districts. However, the winners included Valeriy Babych, the president of the powerful Ukrainian Financial Group Joint-Stock Company, Industry Minister Oleksandr Holubchenko, the Communist poet Borys Oliynyk (who was reelected), and democrats Viktor Nosov and Yuriy Sobolyev.

In Western Ukraine (except for Zakarpattia Oblast), not a single Communist won a parliamentary seat on 10 April. In contrast, another 11 people on the Rukh list were elected here (including Borys Kozhyn and Vasyl Chervoniy). Seats were also won by five URP members, four KUN members, two UNA members (in Lviv Oblast), and one candidate each from the DemPU and New Ukraine. Taras Stetskiv, a member of the New Wave, defeated Iryna Kalynets, who ran from KUN (both had been deputies to the old Supreme Council). Five members of the "Party of Power" were elected (including Deputy Prime Minister Mykola Zhulynskyy, Economy Minister Roman Shpek, and Anton Buteyko, head of the president's foreign affairs service). Mykola Horyn, chairman of the Lviv Oblast Council, was defeated, however.

No deputies were elected in 14 districts of Western Ukraine due to the failure of either candidate in the district to obtain the qualifying number of votes (the only exception was Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast).

Zakarpattia stands somewhat apart. Here seats were won by two representatives of the local "Party of Power," one Christian-Democrat, and one independent democrat—docent of Uzhhorod University and father of the well-known popular singer, Anzhelika Korshynska.

Will the prevalence of "leftists" in the east and the complete rejection of them in the west split Ukraine along the Zbruch River? Only time will tell...

Opinion Poll on Repeat Elections

AU1504101394 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian
9 Apr 94 p 3

[Volodymyr Skachko report: "Everything Will Have To Be Proved"]

[Text] In accordance with the data of the sociological opinion poll involving 1,200 persons that was conducted on 29 March-7 April by the "Democratic Initiative" Center in various regions of Ukraine, just 10 percent of the respondents stated that they would not vote at the repeat elections, 8 percent did not make a final decision, 33 percent did not know for sure for whom they would vote, and 42 percent knew precisely for whom they would vote.

Just 28 percent of respondents were pleased with the candidates' speeches prior to the elections, 24 percent were disappointed, 22 percent remained indifferent to the calls of the candidates, and 26 percent did not have an idea about the candidates' speeches.

Of all the respondents, 63 percent were convinced that their participation in the elections would somehow influence Ukraine's future and 37 percent were convinced that the elections would not change anything.

Only 35 percent of the respondents believed that those candidates, who passed the first round, are worthy of being Supreme Council deputies, and therefore, in the opinion of the respondents, those who have been elected will have to prove that they are not accidental people in politics.

Deputy Premier Views Gas Supply Situation

LD1304211994 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Ukraine's Deputy Prime Minister Valentyn Landyk held a news conference in Kiev dedicated to issues of gas supply to our state. According to Valentyn Landyk, the general situation with gas does not evoke concern at present. The problem mainly lies in the fact that payments for the gas supplied are not made in time. For example, today our debt to Russia in this sphere reaches 600 million dollars.

It was reported that a mechanism of settling accounts with Russia's Gazprom had been worked out during the negotiations held by our governmental delegation in Moscow on 12 April. It is envisaged that half of our debt will be paid off at the expense of the deliveries of Ukrainian-made pipes, pumps, and electrical equipment. Also, an agreement was reached on storing 10 billion cubic meters of Russian gas in our gas-holders and on paying relevant compensation to Ukraine for this.

Valentyn Landyk also reported that national joint-stock company UkrHazProm would be set up in the near future. He expressed certainty that the problem of energy sources in our state would be solved by the end of the next year. It is envisaged that 37 billion cubic meters of gas and seven million tons of oil will be extracted in Ukraine itself.

Belarus

Russia Removing Nuclear Weapons on Schedule

LD1504090194 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] All nuclear weapons on the territory of Belarus belong to Russia, and it is moving them out in strict accordance with the schedule. This was stated on Thursday by Defense Minister Pavel Kozlovskiy after the session of the Commonwealth defense ministers' council. He also voiced the conviction that the whole nuclear arsenal will be removed and sent to Russia by 1999, as agreed by treaty, and perhaps even before then.

Government 'Concerned' About NATO Air Strikes in Bosnia

LD1504090594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0736 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Report by BELINFORM-TASS correspondent Larisa Lazar]

[Text] Minsk 15 April, TASS—Byelorussia [Belarus] is deeply concerned about the new aggravation of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, caused by the NATO air raids on Bosnian Serb positions near Gorazde.

The republican government stresses in a statement, released on Thursday, that the "Belarus Republic again declares its consistent adherence to peaceful methods for settling the conflict. In light of the recent positive tendencies towards the solution of outstanding problems through negotiations, any escalation of armed interference will by no means contribute to the stabilisation of the situation on the Balkans and may entail unpredictable consequences.

"Belarus holds that it is the prerogative of the U.N. Security Council to make decisions on the use of armed force to settle differences among the conflicting sides in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

"Taking into account the dangerous consequences of the armed confrontation," the statement says, "Belarus urges all the sides involved in the conflict to stop hostilities and to continue negotiation in order to achieve peace on the territory of former Yugoslavia," according to the document.

Military Counterintelligence Future in Doubt

PM1504095194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Apr 94 p 4

[Report by Aleksandr Starikovich: "Belarus Could Be Left Without Military Counterintelligence"]

[Text] Minsk—The Belarusian military counterintelligence could become the latest victim of the collapse of the country's law enforcement system.

The Belarusian Ministry of Defense is eager to take military counterintelligence under its wing and turning it into a puppet special service. It cannot be ruled out that the republican KGB's military counterintelligence directorate will also be dissolved.

A development of events whereby the matter will be restricted to internal reform of the directorate is also possible. The question of replacing the leadership of military counterintelligence is also on the agenda. Its present head Valeriy Kez, deputy chairman of the Belarusian KGB and a professional counterintelligence worker with experience of work in combat situations behind him, is no longer to the liking of influential persons in the government.

What factors brought about this situation? Matters are in a better shape in military counterintelligence than in many other law enforcement structures. Here are just two examples. In May last year, on the basis of material prepared by counterintelligence workers, criminal procedures were instituted against 10 border guards who had been systematically stealing video equipment and other valuables from trains. It is quite interesting that a further 68 guardians of the Motherland's borders are being brought as witnesses in these cases.

A little more than one year ago, thanks to military counterintelligence work, a trade transaction involving the sale, with the agreement of the Ministry of Defense, of the "Igla" portable antiaircraft missile complex by the state-owned foreign trading firm "Belarusintorg" was thwarted. This weapon, incidentally, has no counterpart in the world in its combat qualities and, according to international classification, can also be a terrorist weapon ("Igla" is highly compact, and capable of destroying more than just aerial targets).

Military counterintelligence is a structure having everything necessary for autonomous existence: intelligence, counterintelligence, analysis, and investigations subdivisions. It is quite capable of becoming an autonomous federal organ under the control of the Supreme Soviet or the government. The experience of Ukraine, where military counterintelligence was merged with territorial subdivisions of the security service, followed by the reverse process, is sufficiently indicative. Nor did Russia take the risk of handing over military counterintelligence to the Ministry of Defense.

Belarusian reformers are driven by other motives. Their complaints against military counterintelligence are political rather than professional. It is perfectly obvious that publicizing the negative aspects of the activity of the Ministry of Defense and the Border Guard Troops is not to the liking of their leaders, Pavel Kozlovskiy and Yevgeniy Bocharov. The latter has found an original way out of the situation by creating, with the tacit consent of the Council of Ministers, his own special service—the Special Active Measures Service [otdelnaya sluzhba aktivnykh mer].

Today high-ranking functionaries are seeking to make the law enforcement organs not simply an instrument in the struggle for power, but actually an instrument protecting the interests of one political grouping or another. The first blow to the MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] and the KGB was dealt in January this year. Using the arrest and extradition to Vilnius of two leaders of the Lithuanian Communist Party, who had been hiding for a long time on the republic's territory, as a pretext for creating a scandal, the government lobby settled its accounts with power ministers Vladimir Yegorov and Eduard Shirkovskiy.

They were too autonomous for the Council of Ministers and permitted themselves unheard-of audacities, such as appealing to the leaders of the republic in connection with interference in their activity by Gennadiy Danilov, "[Prime Minister] Kebich's right-hand man." At that time Danilov occupied the post of state secretary for combatting crime and for national security.

Following publication of the letter from Shirkovskiy and Yegorov by the mass media the prime minister promised to abolish the State Secretariat. But matters went no further than a change of names: The former State Secretariat is now called Administration for Coordinating the Activity of Administrative Organs. Danilov himself took up the post of government secretary, with undefined duties and unlimited powers. Yegorov was replaced by Vladimir Danko, who made himself famous by declaring in one of his first press conferences his membership of the Communist Party.

At the moment it is hard to say anything definite about Gennadiy Lavitskiy, the new KGB chairman. But he and Danko are far more loyal to the Council of Ministers than their predecessors.

It would appear that military counterintelligence is again in hot water. The scandal over the theft of documents from a car belonging to Iosif Seredich, chief editor of the parliamentary newspaper, is being used as a pretext for firing Valeriy Kez. This scandal may not have provoked widespread reaction. But these documents contained not only information on crimes committed by the border guards, but also on certain unofficial links between Border Guard Troops Commander Yevgeniy Bocharov and Hryb, Danilov, and Lavitskiy.

The evidence was passed to a journalist by a military counterintelligence officer fired from the State Security organs on the instruction of the KGB leadership. These documents were deemed unclassified on the basis of the results of an official investigation in December. But one month ago the Council of Ministers instigated a new investigation, whose conclusions turned out to be diametrically opposite.

The Belarusian KGB Collegium, at its session in the second half of March, refused to adopt a decree on Kez' resignation. Now the solution of this question has been left to the discretion of the relevant parliamentary commission.

According to available information, this commission is already preparing to replace Kez. It is expected that Colonel Valentin Simirskiy will become head of military counterintelligence. For the past five years he has led the Russian 1st Tank Army military counterintelligence department. It is interesting to note that, at the time when Simirskiy was serving in a formation of the Russian group of forces in Germany, Danilov's daughter was also posted there. A strange situation, is it not: The daughter of a high-ranking government functionary serving in the army of another state?

In this case military counterintelligence will evidently cease to ask unnecessary questions.

Many military counterintelligence officers, tired of the intrigues developing around their department, have submitted separation requests. Work in the security services of commercial structures awaits them. Certain counterintelligence workers are still hoping for a dignified solution to the question, but they too will leave if the Ministry of Defense or anyone else make a "puppet" of the special service.

The collapse of the military counterintelligence service will hardly be to the benefit of sovereign Belarus. But when state functionaries allow considerations of personal benefit to get the better of state interests, it is hard to expect a different development of events.

Bank Head's 'Phantom Signature' on Monetary Pact Clarified

WS1404090494 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0700 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] The agreement signed by Belarus and Russia on 12 April to unify the two states' monetary systems immediately attracted great attention in the media. What is perhaps most interesting, is the difference in interpretations of these developments by various journalists. For example, Belarusian mass media reported that the document was signed by all members of the Belarusian delegation. According to Moscow reports, the document was not signed by Belarusian National Bank Chairman Stanislav Bahdankevich. To clarify the situation and the stand of the Belarusian National Bank, a BELINFORM reporter tried to urgently contact Stanislav Bahdankevich. This was not easy due to the schedule of the chief Belarusian banker, and the BELINFORM reporter failed to reach him. However, BELINFORM has learned that Stanislav Bahdankevich held an urgent meeting of the Belarusian Bank Board during which members of the board declared their support for the agreement, though the decision came with difficulty. The situation of the phantom signature was also clarified. Stanislav Bahdankevich signed the agreement on the unification of the Russian and Belarusian monetary systems, but with reservations. The point is that clause No. 5 of the agreement, saying that all assets and liabilities of the Belarusian National Bank should be transferred to the Russian Central Bank, contradicts the Belarusian Constitution.

At 1330 today at the Belarusian National Press Center, Prime Minister Vyacheslaw Kebich will hold a news conference on the results of the visit by the Belarusian delegation to Moscow and the signing of the monetary unification agreement.

Deputies Demand Government Ouster for Signing Monetary Pact

WS1404174594 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1043 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] A group of Supreme Soviet deputies (Viktar Alampiyew, Aleh Trusaw, Lyavon Dzeyka, and three more deputies) has submitted to the Supreme Soviet Presidium an appeal with three demands: To entrust Prosecutor General Vasil Shaladonaw with the task of immediately investigating and, if necessary, of initiating criminal action against the participants in the preparation and signing of the monetary merger agreement between Belarus and Russia; to put the issue of the dismissal of the prime minister, other government members and officials for their anticonstitutional activities on the agenda of an extraordinary Supreme Soviet session; and to conduct a political assessment of these events. The authors of the appeal maintain that the Moscow agreement violates Articles 8, 145, and others of the Belarusian Constitution.

Monetary Merger Violates 'Fundamentals' of Statehood

WS1404174794 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1043 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] According to People's Deputy Uladzimir Zablotskiy, deputy chairman of the Belarusian Popular Front [BNF], BNF leadership is considering the option of creating the Front of National Salvation [FNV]. "The state is being surrendered, therefore all must be abandoned in order to deal with this issue," Zablotskiy said, having in mind the signing of the Belarusian-Russian documents on the monetary merger of both states. It is planned that the creation of the FNV will be discussed with other democratic organizations.

Zablotskiy also stated that the BNF parliamentary opposition will demand that the 14th Supreme Soviet extraordinary session put on its agenda the issue of responsibility of the Belarusian Government leadership for the violation of the Constitution by signing the agreement on a monetary merger between Belarus and Russia. In particular, according to Zablotskiy, part 2 of Article 8 forbids signing international agreements that contradict the Constitution. Moreover, the Russian-Belarusian agreements of 12 April, while providing for the location of the money issuing center in the Central Bank of Russia, violate Article 1 of the Constitution, which stipulates that the Republic of Belarus will conduct its domestic and foreign policy on an independent basis, as well as Articles 141 and 145, which entrust the Bank of Belarus with the sole right to implement money and

credit policy. All these violations threaten the very fundamentals of Belarusian statehood, said Zablotskiy.

Kebich Views Merger, Urges Constitutional Changes

WS1404174694 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1305 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] On 14 April 1994, Prime Minister Vyacheslaw Kebich held a news conference concerning the results of his visit to Moscow, where the signing of the pact on the unification of the monetary systems of Russia and Belarus took place. According to the Belarusian prime minister, the pact consists of two parts; only seven articles were put in force at the time of the signing. They relate, in particular, to the lifting of customs duties on Belarusian goods exported to Russia. Russia's losses in this case will not exceed its expenditures for maintaining Russian troops on Belarusian territory as well as for transporting industrial cargo, oil, gas, etc. The strongest difference of opinion in the process of signing arose during the discussion of the second part of the agreement, which is related directly to the creation of the monetary union and comes into conflict with Article 145 of the Belarusian Constitution. Kebich told journalists that Belarusian people's deputies will have to consider introducing amendments to the Constitution in force, which will deprive the Belarusian Central Bank of being first to determine money issuing policy on the territory of Belarus, and will transfer this function, as well as some others, to the Russian Central Bank. In the event of Supreme Soviet's refusal to carry out such manipulations [as received] with the Constitution, Kebich intends to launch a national referendum on this issue. The Belarusian prime minister also informed of the free-of-interest credit in the amount of 200 million rubles, which will be granted to Belarus in the first half of 1994 for balancing the monetary systems of both countries. In the event of the cancellation of the agreement, this sum must be returned to Russia. "This is a choice of my life. I have made it and I do not feel sorry about it," Kebich stated. By now, the final word rests with the Belarusian parliament, because a real rapprochement of the two Slav states can be achieved only after the ratification of the agreement and the introduction of amendments to the Constitution.

Defense Minister on Monetary Systems Merger, Nuclear Arms

LD1404214694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1948 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow 14 April, TASS—The agreement on merging of the Russian and Byelorussian [Belarusian] monetary systems, which provides for solving of certain military problems as well, is above all "to the advantage of the Russian servicemen temporarily deployed on

Byelorussian territory," according to the Republic's Defence Minister Pavel Kazlowski.

After the meeting of the Council of CIS Defence Ministers, Kazlowski noted in an interview with TASS that all nuclear weapons stationed on Byelorussian soil belong to Russia, which is withdrawing them strictly according to the schedule. The minister believes the entire nuclear arsenal will be removed to Russia by 1999, as scheduled, or even earlier.

Commission Head Details Presidential Election Procedures

WS1404143694 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian 8 Apr 94 p 1

[Report by Ihar Sinyakevich: "Election Campaign Will Begin on 15 April"]

[Text] "The election of the first Belarusian president will be held on the summary basis," said Central Electoral Commission Chairman Alyksandr Abramovich at a press conference on 6 April. In his words, the Law on Presidential Elections provides for accelerated procedures when the presidential seat becomes vacant before the scheduled time. It says nothing about electing the first president. This is why the commission adopted a resolution setting specific dates for the beginning and end of the various stages of the election campaign.

The campaign will begin on 15 April, with the registration stage for initiating groups—which will end on 24 April—to put forward their presidential candidates. Within this period of time, the commission has to complete registration of those groups, distribute lists of the established form for collecting signatures of citizens or parliamentary deputies, and provide identification cards to members of initiating groups. A. Abramovich

emphasized that only initiating group members can collect signatures, which should be done exclusively with lists of the established form. "This is necessary to prevent certain people from beginning to collect signatures ahead of time," the commission chairman said. "We have unconfirmed evidence that some of the candidates have already gathered the required number of signatures, which will not count. This is nothing more than practice."

Citizens' signatures will be collected between 25 April and 14 May. According to the law, every citizen has the right to support several candidates, but can only sign once for each of them. As the commission members noted, in addition to personal signatures, the lists must include the following information: full name, home address, number of passport or other identification document. The lists should then be passed on to polling electoral commissions no later than 15 May. "The experience we acquired during the referendum shows that signatures should be verified at the polling station level," A. Abramovich said.

Presidential candidates will be registered from 27 May to 2 June. In the words of A. Abramovich, the collection of signatures from parliamentary deputies may drag on until the beginning of the registration drive.

After the registration, all candidates will receive 20 million rubles [R] for campaigning and an additional R10 million for aides' salaries. The commission representatives stressed that according to the Electoral Law, the state is responsible for financing the election; the use of any additional funds is prohibited.

In the words of A. Abramovich, the registered parties and movements can propose their candidates for electoral commissions. However, those commissions will be set up by the executive committees at their discretion.

The presidential elections will be held on 23 June.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Unable To Attend CIS Summit Due to Illness

LD1404180494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1610 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Vice-President of Kazakhstan Erik Asanbayev said that President Nursultan Nazarbayev will not attend the CIS summit not because of "a diplomatic disease," but due to an acute bout of Radiculitis. He said that the illness struck during Nazarbayev's visit to Japan. "The president was struggling, but the aggravation did not pass, therefore he is staying in bed," Asanbayev told INTERFAX upon arrival in Moscow on Thursday.

Asanbayev noted that he supports all economic documents prepared for the summit, but he has some remarks concerning drafts on the rights of ethnic minorities.

Asked an INTERFAX correspondent whether Alma-Ata [Almaty] is embarrassed that Nazarbayev's idea of a Eurasian Union caused a mixed reaction, Asanbayev pointed out that "in general, there are no simple answers in the world, everybody has his own point of view on the same phenomenon."

"We are following closely the reaction to this proposal and at the same time trying to work on it in detail," the vice-president said.

Nazarbayev Separates Presidential, Government Staff

LD1504101494 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 0800 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] The president of Kazakhstan has issued a decree on reorganizing the staff of the Republic's president and council of ministers.

The decree says, in part: The existing staff of the president and the cabinet of ministers should be reorganized by being divided into the staff of the president and the administration of the council of ministers of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Those made redundant from the staff of the president and the council of ministers will be given social guarantees and compensation in conformity with the Labor Code.

Cossacks, Ethnic Russians Arrested

LD1504064994 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0500 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] The situation in the north of Kazakhstan, at Semirechye, remains extremely tense. This was reported to an RIA correspondent by Vladimir Naumov, first deputy ataman of the cossacks' union. According to the information from him, mass arrests are being made among Cossacks in the Cossack villages of northern

Kazakhstan. Even now the Cossack stanitsas [large Cossack villages] of Topolovka and Pokatilovo are completely blockaded by the local OMON [special purpose militia detachment]. The local authorities are also subjecting activists of the congress of Russian communities to arrest. In particular, Boris Soprunyuk, one of the heads of that organization in Kazakhstan, has been arrested. Standard accusations are made during the arrest—either of attempts to disrupt the unity of the Republic or of a striving to whip up interethnic strife.

The atamans of a number of the Cossack troops have sent a message to Russian President Boris Yeltsin. They request him to use all of his influence to put an end to the lawlessness.

Leader of Russian Community Arrested in Petropavlovsk

LD1404173394 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 0025 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] One of the leaders of the Russian community in northern Kazakhstan, (Boris Soprunyuk) was arrested at his apartment in Petropavlovsk, Kazakhstan, on 12 April. This is reported by the Congress of Russian Societies. The authorities claim that (Soprunyuk) was arrested because he ignored a summons to attend the oblast prosecutor's office. In July 1993, a criminal case was instituted against (Soprunyuk) on charges of inciting interethnic discord. (Soprunyuk) has declared a hunger strike. Boris (Soprunyuk) has repeatedly opposed infringement of the rights of the Russian-speaking community in Kazakhstan.

Economic Development Course Examined

944K1067A Almaty ABV in Russian 8 Apr 94 p 6

[Dialogue between Sergey Volkov, editor of the analysis section of the newspaper ABV, and Mikhail Ustyugov, editor of the economics section of the newspaper EKSPRESS K: "It Seems the Asphalt Is Melting With the Last Snow. Whatever the Demand for Democracy—Such Will Be the Supply"]

[Text] [Volkov] Regardless of how much the subject of elections may have recently set our teeth on edge, we will have to say something about them, summing up the March results. As predicted, voter activity turned out to be the lowest in recent decades. Although in terms of this indicator we are still probably "ahead of the rest of the planet," social apathy is clearly on the rise in Kazakhstan. But if in developed countries slow activity in the electoral precincts is explained by the lack of confidence in politicians as a class (they say that without them they could figure out their problems), in our country, this phenomenon has a different subtext. Here the people are tired of political games and, the main thing, they do not believe in the possibility of stabilizing the situation with the help of new deputies.

The passivity of a certain part of the population has indirectly "supported" the executive power, which from the very beginning without beating around the bush has taken to slipping in (there is no other word for it) people it wants or finds helpful. Of course, such a policy could not fail to evoke hostility from certain voters who were already weary of mindlessly obeying the powers that be.

[Ustyugov] Here are some characteristic figures obtained as a result of a sociological poll conducted by workers of the Republic Center for Study of Public Opinion. People of Kazakhstan were asked which problems bother them most today. Two-thirds answered: the decline of the standard of living, and only one out of 20 mentioned the lack of democratic freedoms. Whatever the demand for freedom—such is the supply. As a result, we have been given elections that are conducted, as the president put it, according to Kazakhstan's standards of democracy. Who is to blame for the fact that they turned out to be quite unlike the Western ones? There is American democracy, there is the general European standard, there is the Chinese, the Chilean, and there is Kazakhstan's. And ours is probably far from the worst, even if it did baffle CSCE experts. In any case a good half of the deputies (not counting those elected through the state list) were elected, in my view, without any violations or juggling of figures.

As for the activity of the electorate, the answer is provided again by the figures from the poll of the Republic Center for Study of Public Opinion. Only 7.5 percent of those questioned are counting on effective activity from the new legislative organ, and the rest think that the members of parliament engage partially in talkathons and partially in lofty abstractions that have nothing directly to do with real life, which is ruled not by laws but by local bureaucrats.

I do not know whether the sociologists were interested in the reaction of Kazakhstan residents to a possible turn toward authoritarian power, with complete elimination of the legislative branch, but I do not think they would respond with any special disturbance or misgivings here either: The past four months, during which the president has had additional authority and published edicts instead of signing laws, have shown the "elasticity" of Kazakhstan's democratic standards and the fact that they are not ingrained in the very essence of the political system, social life, and mentality of the citizens.

The Fortress of Power and the "Degree" of Loyalty

[Volkov] And still, in spite of the back-room games that have weeded out many politicians who were really needed in the Supreme Council, the new parliament will certainly not be in the government's pocket.

In the first place, certain deputies have remained from the preceding Supreme Council to join the current one, and the majority of them are extremely opposed to the policy being conducted today by the higher and middle echelons of power.

In the second place, no fewer if not more of the new members of parliament also share the aforementioned dislike for the actions of the government.

True, a part of the St. Petersburg corps is elected from the state or, more precisely, the president's list. Their position is unenviable. On the one hand, they were elected by the people and, quite naturally, must defend their interests. On the other, the fact that they were nominated by the head of state places on them certain moral (not to mention other) obligations to the president. This kind of duality (one might call it a "split personality") of a considerable number of the people's elect could undoubtedly play a self-destructive role in the new parliament. Add to this the division of the Supreme Council into two chambers (and many observers consider this all but a fait accompli) and it becomes clear that for the first time our deputies will be engaged in "mud slinging" at one another and the government at the same time. I think the former will still win out and the rest of the problems will be classified as internal parliamentary ones.

A distinguishing feature of March was the active preparation of certain people for posts in the Supreme Council. Today, nobody any longer conceals the fact that Kuanysh Suytlanov should become the leader of one of the chambers of parliament. His conspicuous dismissal from the position of deputy prime minister because of "election to people's deputy" long before the beginning of the work of the first session was to have shown to the least quick-witted that this statesmen had now seriously taken up the cause of building a new parliament.

[Ustyugov] The main task of the "script writers" who today are preparing the basis for the first session is to provide for a structure of the legislative organ and a mechanism for its activity that will enable the executive power to function freely. Parliament is to play a constructive-decorative role and nothing more. Above all it will be necessary to undertake a number of organizational measures aimed at holding back, dragging out, and "self-entanglement" of decisions that run counter to government policy. The complicated bicameral structure, the system of relations between the two chambers, and the regulations work to this end. Many a week will probably be devoted to these questions.

Otherwise, the standoff between the powers would begin almost on the first day of the session. And what good does it do that the amount of the minimum wage and pension in the Republic is approaching the value of one U.S. dollar? They will call the prime minister to the podium and vote, say, for increasing the "minimum" to the value of the minimum consumer basket—400 tenge. The citizens will rejoice. Tomorrow they will all be given 10 times more money. The day after tomorrow all the prices will rise 10-fold. Will they summon the prime minister to the podium again?

I am not speaking about the Republic budget, from which all benefits for war veterans, misplaced residents

of the Aral Sea area, Semipalatinsk victims, Chernobyl victims, and those who suffered from the repressions have been eliminated. What kind of parliament would approve such a decision?

There is only one way out: Raise the "degree" of parliamentary loyalty, which will make it possible to assign to the president additional authority (in any case in the economic sphere) throughout the entire period of the "transition." Then the government will have its hands tied and the people's deputies will have it easier. There will be no need to waver between the Scylla and Charybdis of schism and disbandment.

There Is More Room on Olympus

[Volkov] The personnel changes that occurred in March again evoked more questions than answers. The "reassignment" of Tulegen Zhukeyev from the position of state adviser to the vacant post of deputy prime minister with the present leapfrogging in functional duties of members of the government make it impossible to understand whether this was a reinforcement of a "weak section" in the administration of the state or a demotion of some ill-favored person (recall how some of the functions were "taken away" from the former state adviser), or simply a change of the official title of the position held by Mr. Zhukeyev, leaving him in charge of all the sections he had before. The customary curfew of complete secrecy over transfers like this leaves no chance of figuring out the real reasons for the aforementioned actions.

Nor does the discharge of Marat Ospanov from the position of the republic's chief tax collector because of his election as a deputy a month before the beginning of the work of the parliament provide an answer to the question of whether this is related to his forthcoming active work in the new Supreme Council or if there are some other factors at work here. It is no accident, probably, that President Sergey Tereshchenko recently said reproachfully that last year the tax services of Kazakhstan collected only 42 percent of the taxes that were due. Such "kindness" to the taxpayers at a time that is so difficult for the state budget cannot but make one wonder. With respect for Mr. Ospanov as a politician, I still cannot help but ask what actually were the reasons for his desire to be among the people's deputies again and why the Republic leaders supported him in this? This question could be asked of several of those who were elected in March.

[Ustyugov] I can add only that Zhukeyev's appointment as deputy prime minister, from the standpoint of the Basic Law, reinforces his positions since nothing is said about state advisers in the Constitution. I would not be surprised if the president eliminated the institution of state advisers altogether this year.

We Have Too Few Fedorovs But Too Many Zaveryukhas

[Volkov] March was also very instructive in the area of our leaders' outside contacts. The tendencies here are such that the Almaty leaders have already come up with a universal "lamentation." Bouncing along the pothole-filled highways of the capital (the impression was that the asphalt would melt along with the last snow), they say: If the president had not travelled abroad so frequently and had traveled on our roads, things would be easier for us. Let us overlook the concreteness of this complaint-request and discuss the principle of its origin. It is very good that both Nursultan Nazarbayev and the country he heads have a positive image abroad. It is even better that considerable amounts of funds in dollars are allotted to this country. But beyond that, as in the Soviet Union in Gorbachev's times, everything practically comes to a standstill. How, why, and where this money is spent—we do not know. A fresh example. Having concluded an agreement with the IMF and having received a guarantee that Kazakhstan would receive a large foreign currency loan, our government stated repeatedly that the money would be spent, among other things, for stabilizing exchange rate of the tenge and curbing inflation. In March, we could see quite well how these intentions are being realized when on the eve of the elections the dollar was surging upward and by April Fool's Day it had doubled its tenge value—and that was in one month!

If things continue like this it will not be long before it will be possible to have another financial reform in order to reduce the scale of the Republic's monetary unit. Such fantasies are nourished by the appearance in circulation of bills worth 200 tenge and the word from the president about his intention to buy from Great Britain special equipment on which our monetary bills are printed. If the former information evokes regret about such a rapid devaluation of the national currency (it is no joke that within four months after the monetary reform they will issue a denomination worth twice as much as the nominal value of the largest monetary bill!), the latter causes misgivings that soon the printing of tenge will turn into an uncontrolled process of issuing money that rapidly loses its value.

[Ustyugov] We do not have the appropriate political support for a stricter financial exchange rate in Kazakhstan. The Cabinet of Ministers is a monotonous, uniform monolith, and the struggle of approaches and concepts (if it exists at all) is left to the cadres. It is necessary to reveal (or create?) a multipolarity of government similar to the Russian: We must have our own Fedorovs who are ready to fall in battle against preferential credit and our own Zaveryukhas and Skokovs, who express the interests of the agro-industrial generals. But now one gets the impression that the government expresses only its own interests, which only it can understand, and therefore, today it is capable of canceling out what it categorically declared yesterday, and tomorrow it will no less resolutely return to the other

side. And all this without conflicts, polemics, or resignations, with concerted, inspired enthusiasm. The result is that the general deterioration of the situation (and it is inevitable this year) is linked by the citizens not to concrete officials representing various ideas and interests, but the government and president as a whole. Today, the head of state must distance himself from the Cabinet of Ministers—beginning with separation of the staffs and ending with the appointment to the position of prime minister of a really respected strategist. Instead of this, Nazarbayev takes the "fire" himself, signing first populist and economically ideologized and then monetaristic-draconian decisions. There is an ancient truth that the more you take on, the more they ask of you. Appeals to create global conferences and alliances with supernational kopeks sound good on world-scale spaces, but they do not solve our internal problems.

Do Not Grieve Over the Exchanges, Lads

[Volkov] Kazakhstan is sometimes discussed in terms of a sad principle: Either something good or nothing at all. The decline of the production rates, the shutting down of hundreds of enterprises, and the nonpayments crisis have become typical phenomena. It would not be so bad if behind all this one could see positive tendencies in economic processes. Alas, even the documents the president and prime minister have signed, taking advantage of parliament's absence, give one no confidence that with their implementation our economy will reach any significant heights. Two recent edicts will serve as an example: "On Commodity Exchanges" and "On Measures for Forming Securities." Their adoption clearly shows that the country's leaders today are more interested in the problem of "staking out" as quickly as possible (before the beginning of the work of the Supreme Council) the basic points of their own economic policy than in actually implementing it. There has already been too much discussion of the sad fate of the Kazakhstan stock exchanges, which vanished not only because they were excessively numerous, but also because of the fact that they were not included in the government schemes. So many lances, arrows, and other piercing writing implements have been broken over the creation of normal conditions for the formation of the securities market. Since it still does not exist, two legislative acts prepared by the executive power (another paradox of our legal thinking) will come out, and everyone is supposed to think that tomorrow everything will be okay in the corresponding areas of the economy. But in reality, little will change as a result of the creation of state organs for questions of markets and securities (and these are the provisions that are the linchpins of these edicts), the more so taking into account the current degree of state influence over the economy. Why do these issues have to be raised again today? Is it really just in order to show that the executive power has its finger on the pulse of the reforms?

[Ustyugov] Incidentally, the government commission for developing the concept of the functioning of the securities market in Kazakhstan was created about two years

ago and it seems that it has not convened once since then. Russia has adopted hundreds of normative acts aimed at the formation and civilized regulation of this extremely important variable in a market economy. We are just beginning. Well, we can still console ourselves: Better late than never.

Tajikistan

Government To Send Protest Note to Afghan Government

LD1404164494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1443 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Dushanbe 14 April, TASS—Russian border guards detained two Tajik opposition militants who tried to cross into Tajikistan from neighbouring Afghanistan on Wednesday, military sources in Dushanbe said today.

Two days earlier Afghanistan-based militants opened gunfire on one of the border villages. No casualties among villagers or border guards were reported.

On 11 April opposition fighters attacked an ambulance belonging to the local hospital. A doctor who was travelling in it was wounded.

The Tajik Government is preparing a note of protest to Afghan authorities over these incidents.

At the same time, independent observers report that over the last six months three such notes were sent to the Afghan Government, but none of them has been answered yet.

All Mass Festivities Banned Until Further Notice

LD1404170494 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1530 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] The government of Tajikistan has banned the celebration of anniversaries and other events of a mass character from 14 April until further notice. In the view of the Tajik leadership, this ban will make it possible to save considerable amounts of money and food and to reduce the obligatory slaughter of private and public livestock.

Post of President To Be Instituted Under New Constitution

LD1504083094 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0700 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] The post of president will be instituted in Tajikistan. This is the first result of the work of the commission of the Republic's Supreme Soviet to draft a new constitution for Tajikistan. The draft constitution with a presidential form of government will be put to a nationwide referendum.

Gas Supplies to Georgia Likely To Be Cut Off

LD1404140494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1055 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] If the 200-million-dollar gas debt to Turkmenistan is not repaid within days, gas supplies to Georgia will be suspended on 1 May.

A spokesman for the Gruzgaz department told INTERFAX the debt to Turkmenistan is unlikely to be paid-off before the end of April. The gas consumers in the republic—enterprises and the population—pay practically nothing for the use of fuel. They owe the department over 5 trillion Georgian coupons.

Rakhmonov Leaves for CIS Summit in Moscow

LD1504102694 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 0040 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Emomali Rakhmonov, head of state and chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan, has left for Moscow to take part in the meeting of CIS heads of states and governments. He is accompanied by Kazidavlat Koimdodov, deputy chairman of the Tajik Supreme Soviet, some members of the Supreme Soviet and the Council of Ministers and a number of experts.

Emomali Rakhmanov and his delegation arrived in Moscow the same day. [passage omitted]

The same day, Rakhmonov met with Ambassador [Ramiro] Piriz-Ballon, the UN secretary general's envoy to Tajikistan. Piriz-Ballon informed the Tajik head of state about the intra-Tajik talks. He highly assessed the Tajik leadership's (efforts) to start the talks and its measures to bring peace and calm to the country.

Emomali Rakhmonov appraised as positive the role of the United Nations in stabilizing the situation, not only in Tajikistan but throughout the Central Asian region.

Emomali Rakhmonov, the head of state and chairman of the Supreme Soviet, spoke to journalists at Moscow airport. In a brief statement, he said he will meet with Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. In his meetings with Russian Federation leaders he will discuss the issue of Tajikistan's entry to the ruble zone.

Turkmenistan

Niyazov Opposes Tough CIS Structures

LD1404125294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1055 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] President Saparmurad Niyazov of Turkmenistan told INTERFAX Thursday that Ashkhabad [Ashgabat] was against tough structures within the Commonwealth of Independent States.

"We (CIS countries—IF) have efficient bilateral structures, but the strengthening of independence should not be interfered with by new tough structures. The CIS role should be enhanced, but without those structures, he said. We need to integrate but in a civilized way, he said. Asked about his attitude towards Nazarbayev's proposals on the creation of a Euro-Asian union, he said that the idea was not new. We should understand the very essence of the idea. One center should not be replaced by another one. If it is a matter of the creation of a new coordinating center, Turkmenistan is against. If a new structure will help strengthen independence and our relations, the idea should be analyzed, said Niyazov.

He believes that it is premature to consider the idea of a Euro-Asian union.

Niyazov said that partners should not be sought overseas. CIS partners and Russia are top priority partners for Turkmenistan. We are grateful to the Russian people that they helped our republic to achieve a cultural and other progress, he said.

Uzbekistan

Karimov Says Russia Has Great Future

LD1404215294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1746 GMT 14 Apr 94

["Exclusive" report]

[Text] According to estimates of politologists and economists, Uzbekistan possesses such natural and people's resources which can transform this country into the an advanced one over a short period of time. Uzbek President Islam Karimov speaks about the prospects of the Republic's development and on its ties with Russia with Interfax special correspondent Vyacheslav Terekhov.

IF: It seems that Uzbekistan is one of the former USSR republics which has not experienced a substantial industrial recession over the last period of time and witnessed even a kind of raising in several fields of industry. Does it mean that you have found a recipe to fight with economic misfortunes?

I. KARIMOV: As a matter of fact, a 4.5 percent growth of industry was fixed in 1993 in Uzbekistan. By the way, according to Arkadiy Votkiy (President of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs - INTERFAX), if we take 1989, when economic crisis started in the Soviet Union, as the basic point the recession in the sphere of GNP and industrial production was 2.5-times lower than in the former USSR in general and in several fields it was even three-four times less.

I can tell those who want to understand the reasons of this phenomenon that this mechanism is rather simple—it is the way which Uzbekistan has chosen to transfer to the market. Many people try to explain this by upward distortion of the results achieved. This is incorrect. By the way, the army of officials was reduced two times in

our Republic, at the same time the former Union apparatus servicing the former USSR was preserved and even is being increased in Russia.

Some time ago the Republic abolished the department guarding "the socialist property" (OBKhSS) and reduced the People's Control. There is no more apparatus of the state committee on prices which was controlling prices. It has been united with the Finance Ministry, a total of 20 people work there. There is no more Gosplan (state planning committee) and Gossnab (state supply committee) in Uzbekistan. We have practically abolished all organizations controlling economy.

We act given the people's wisdom "Having not built a new house, do not destroy the old one." Nobody intended to immediately destroy the previous system towards which the new radical democrats feel hatred, the question concerns its gradual re-structuring because it is impossible to force this process. There is no other secret. I am convinced that all reforms should be implemented gradually and one should not blame the old system for all mortal sins. We went along a creative road but not along the way of destruction of everything what was created before.

I believe that the decision of the Russian authorities to widely celebrate the 50th anniversary of the victory of the Soviet people over fascism is absolutely just. Now Russia cannot live without the Army, without the mighty military-industrial potential which gave the possibility to support the balance in this two-polar world.

Those Republics, which primarily shipped raw materials in the former USSR, have suffered less after the destruction of economic ties within the collapsed Union than those which produced manufactured goods. For example, Belarus, which has no natural resources, entirely depended upon other Union Republics. Such a dependence is extremely dangerous.

Over the last few years by means of barter, in exchange for cotton and other products, Tashkent managed to receive those industrial goods which help to maintain rather a high level of production. But the main thing is that nobody in Uzbekistan intends "to break the old world to the basis and then to build a new one."

IF: What is the reason of these, say, relative success of Uzbekistan?

I.KARIMOV: I believe that everything depends upon those who stand at the helm of this state. For example, "chiefs of laboratories and chief research employees who pretended to be leaders of this nation were illiterately fulfilling their duties. For example, what could understand a historian, Azerbaijan's former president Abulfaz Elchibey, in economy and policy? This man has worked all his life among dusty book shelves.

An analogical situation was in Georgia as well; in this Republic a philologist Zviad Gamsakhurdia was heading the state. For example, I am not going to write poems

and to play piano as, say, the former head of the Lithuanian parliament V.Landsbergis. When a professional politician Algirdas Brazauskas came to power the life in the Republic began to return to normal.

There existed a threat that incompetent people would come to power in Uzbekistan in 1989-90 as it happened in the Caucasus.

I must say with a great regret that such negative process is going on in Russia now; unwillingness of the people to participate in the elections testifies to this fact. And if the people do not trust the ideals then any reforms cannot be implemented. This is a sad fact because there cannot be Uzbekistan's flourishing without Russia's flourishing. I have said about this many times.

IF: According to available information, about 40 percent of Uzbekistan's citizens do not know the Uzbek language which is the state one in this nation...

I.KARIMOV: As many as 22 Mn people live in Uzbekistan, 77 percent being Uzbeks, Tatars, Kazakhs, Tajiks, Kyrgyzs, Turkmenians, and the so called Russia-speaking people representing about 10 percent of the total population represent other nationalities living in the Republic. The overwhelming majority know the Uzbek language, some of them do not speak fluently but there are such people who do not accept it at all. On the other hand, there are Russians in the Republic who brilliantly speak the Uzbek language, for example, Vitaliy Segedin, director of the Akmalik mining-metallurgical plant.

The Uzbek decree on the language is a liberal one—the authorities do not demand that all people should freely possess the language but I believe that they should demonstrate respect to our language because this is a sign of respect towards the people. I think that the Republic's citizens should possess the language at least on the level of everyday association.

By the way, almost 99 percent of Uzbeks know the Russian language whereas this percent is much lower in the Transcaucasian and Baltic states. Uzbekistan is an example of the respect towards the great Russian language.

IF: Several sources in mass media assert that there are people in Uzbekistan's distant regions who hunger...

I.KARIMOV: Several years ago I worked in the most distant mountainous kishlaks (villages) going on foot and mounted. I can say that I know how people live in "out-of-the-way places." There are regions where there are droughts and the lands are infertile but hunger is impossible in our Republic. I assert that "there are neither poor nor hungry people in Uzbekistan." The community style of Uzbeks' life does not allow this. If at least one hungry man appears in makhalla (a traditional community of Uzbeks) it would be shameful and disgraceful for everybody. I am proud of these people.

IF: The previous party apparatus has preserved in Uzbekistan's leadership. Do you think that it will be difficult to implement reforms with these people or it is easier to rule the country?

I.KARIMOV: The Uzbeks are very law-obedient people, this feature of the people was brought up in the course of centuries. In addition, we pursue our own way of democratic construction of the state and of market relations—we do not divide people into communists, anti-communists, radicals and democrats in our country, we have only refused from Bolsheviks' slogans. One should not think that only former communists work in Uzbekistan's leadership. By the way, I myself did not study in a party school.

Many of the Uzbek ministers and their deputies have nothing in common with the party apparatus—these are people younger than 40 years old. One can say the same about the majority of the governors in the regions. There are no more ardent Bolsheviks in the Republic's leadership and many former secretaries of the regional party committees correctly understand today's demands. Changing in people's thinking in Uzbekistan is going on dynamically and I am proud of this.

IF: What is the situation in the field of the Republic's foreign economic relations?

I.KARIMOV: The interest of the foreign capital in Uzbekistan is great and it seems to me that Russian leadership perceives this with some jealousy. More than 1200 joint ventures function in the Republic now, largest international corporations participate in their work. There are branches of six prestigious foreign banks in the Republic, several reputable firms have opened their missions in the Republic.

I believe that Uzbekistan could teach Russia in some spheres, for example, in the field of infrastructure creation, in the sphere of foreign economic policy and transfer to market relations. By the way, I have written a book devoted to this problem. At present Tashkent has currency deposits in the best world banks totalling more than \$700 Mn. What CIS state can boast with such a reserve in hard currency created within one-two years? It's my secret how Uzbekistan has managed to achieve this.

Achievement of a trade parity with Russia is on today's agenda. Unfortunately, Tashkent buys practically everything in Russia without selling anything to it. At the same time one should not perceive Russia as "a milking cow"—it is the richest power and Russians can be proud of its potential.

IF: What is your assessment of the case on corruption in Uzbekistan's supreme echelons of power investigated by the USSR General prosecutor's office and Sh.Rashidov's role (the late first secretary of Uzbekistan's communist party—INTERFAX)? According to the investigation, the greatest number of millionaires lived in the Republic. Where is their money?

I.KARIMOV: You are right, there was corruption in the Republic. Upward distortion of the results achieved in the production of cotton which were later on transferred into money by Uzbekistan's leaders who were gaining great profits is the main reason of corruption. However, I believe that the Union authorities were fighting with these illegal actions by vicious methods, they did not observe laws themselves.

Nobody took into account that the Republic had its own Constitution, its own Supreme Soviet, its own legislature. They arrested deputies of the Union parliament violating their status. The suspected ones were hunted by dogs, they were handcuffed without any sanctions of the attorney general.

I believe that the methods used by the investigators of the General prosecutor's office Mr Telman Gdlyan and Mr Nikolay Ivanov personified complete lawlessness. Such ignorance of the national dignity of the Republic's citizens led to the bloodshed in the course of inter-ethnic clashes in the Fergana valley. In my opinion, the whole Uzbekistan and, probably, the whole Middle Asia could have exploded as a result of this. The Republic could not control Gdlyan and Ivanov. They were acting on the order of the CPSU Central Committee.

I believe that an additional investigation of this case should be instituted in the near future. The thing is that funds earned honestly were confiscated from the people accused of corruption at that time. Women were deprived of wedding-rings and jewelry received from their ancestors. This was a pure humiliation. Where have all confiscated jewelry's disappeared? How much has remained in Mr Gdlyan's pockets and in the pockets of other investigators? They have not handed over anything into Uzbekistan's treasury. I think that Tashkent can raise this issue today. Though we do not want to trouble people in this difficult time...

IF: Are there opposition parties in Uzbekistan and will they participate in the elections?

I.KARIMOV: We should start with the clarification of an issue what a political party is. This is a movement having its own program and its own perception of the state's development. After the collapse of the USSR several tens of parties immediately appeared in the Republic which announced themselves "parties." This testifies to the fact that these are not parties but just groupings with definite political ambitions pursuing their own goals.

As far as the opposition is concerned, it must be constructive and act within the Constitution. When a party proclaims itself an opposition one but it has the aim to destroy public system then, I believe, it cannot be called an opposition.

IF: Have you ever thought that you would become leader of a state?

I.KARIMOV: Never in my life I thought that I would be a leader of such a scale and carry a colossal responsibility for the fate of the whole country. For a long time I worked in planning and financial organizations, I was deputy chairman of the government and headed the Republic's State Planning Committee. After the discussion of my candidacy in the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and at the plenum of the Central Committee I was confirmed on the post of the first secretary of Uzbekistan's communist party. It happened just after the tragic events in Fergana. At the same time I believe that I am an accidental man in the party.

I am convinced that any society, even the most democratic one, is not barred from sins. Now, Uzbekistan is accumulating experience while building its statehood. I think that elements of authoritarian system are needed during the transition period. If the people elected me to the post of the president, it means that they are confident in my program and see that it will bring stability and peace to this nation. I believe that I must fulfill my duty in the face of the people, that is, I must fulfill my program. I must admit that I have never resorted to volitional methods. However, I think that sometimes they are necessary.

IF: The thing is that you yourself create an economic system in this country which cannot be subordinated to strong-willed decisions...

I.KARIMOV: We are forced to resort to volitional methods at a definite state in order the objective economic laws could triumph. Somebody must take the responsibility and prepare the ground in order these laws could work tomorrow.

IF: Over the last period of time mass media often reports about the growth of anti-Russian moods in Uzbekistan...

I.KARIMOV: I do not want to use passionate words but I'd like to underline that Uzbekistan always treated Russia with great respect and gratitude. This is a sincere feeling.

A word expression "near abroad countries" is widely used now. Frankly speaking, I do not understand what it means. I think that such terms artificially separate us with the Russian Federation. As for me, authors of this term do not understand themselves what is hidden under this word combination.

Russia has a great future. After the collapse of the USSR, independent young states experienced a kind of euphoria. In some of the republics this independence turned into a fetish. But the life has proved that sovereignty is not just loud statements and declarations. Now many people understand that Russia should be the guarantor of peace and stability in the Middle Asia.

Not long ago in Davos, Pakistani Prime Minister Mrs Bhutto declared that today when there is no more iron curtain and the republics of the Central Asia are open for the outside world, it's high time to start integration process in this region by creating an association in which Pakistan will be the leader. I categorically oppose this point of view. I believe that the Commonwealth of Independent States is a serious organization and one cannot but take it into consideration.

Armenia

'Intensive Military Operations' in Karabakh

NC1404185394 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First
Program Network in Armenian 1700 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] The situation is exceedingly tense in the Karabakh conflict zone where intensive military operations are continuing on the north and northeastern sectors of the front. The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Defense Army headquarters press service reported that the Azerbaijani troops are not refraining from attempts to advance in certain sectors. Military operations have resumed in these sectors as of this morning. The Azerbaijani air force is also not slackening its activity. Having sustained strong a counteroffensive on the southern regions of Mardakert on 13 April, the enemy suffered substantial losses and was forced to retreat to its initial positions. In general, the Karabakh forces are reliably controlling the situation all along the front.

Armenian Defense Ministry press service reported that new tension arose on the northeastern border of Armenia during the daytime on 13 April. Using various types of weapons, the Azerbaijani Army opened fired on Voskepar in Noyemberyanskiy Rayon, and on Aygepar, Nerkin-Karmiragpyur, and Movses and defensive positions around these villages in Tavushskiy Rayon. The artillery shelling in Noyemberyanskiy Rayon continued for five hours. The Armenian border guards were forced to retaliate and suppress the enemy fire. There were no casualties on our side.

The press service also reported that another cease-fire violation took place yesterday on the southwestern border of Armenia. The Nakhichevani military units fired for an hour on Shagat, and on Arevis in Sisianskiy Rayon. There are no casualties. Our troops did not retaliate.

Relative calm prevailed on Armenia's borders last night and early this morning. However, the enemy opened machine-gun and howitzer fire on border positions in Idzhevanskiy Rayon (?today). There are injured. The Armenian Army fighters took countermeasures.

Deputies Send Letter to Serbian Leader

NC1404211394 Yerevan SNARK in English 1042 GMT
14 Apr 94

[Text] The GOLOS ARMENII newspaper publishes a message the group of Armenian and Karabakh parliamentaries sent to the Serbian President Mr. St. Milosevic. The letter says that just at the beginning of the military actions in Yugoslavia Armenians became indignant following the tragedy Serbians and Chernogorians [as received] were and are being involved. Armenians as all the people of Yugoslavia have been fighting for independence for years.

It's very difficult to fight for independence while Russia is under the influence of "Atlantism" and practically

takes the position of an observer with respect to the fate of her traditional aliens. Just this fact let the Anglo-Saxons and their Western and Eastern aliens using the slogan of peace-keeping dictate their "world order" to those nations who are in an artificial borders' deadlock.

Armenian and Karabakh parliamentaries express their confidence in the fact that the creation of new political realities let the orthodoxy and the Islamic fundamentalism prevent wars and death in the region.

Azerbaijan

Aliyev Says Army Units 'Standing Firm'

NC1404203294 Baku Azerbaijan Radio Televiziyasi
Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] The Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev left for the Russian capital today to attend the meeting of the CIS heads of state in Moscow. The Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev and those accompanying him on the trip were seen off at Baku's Bina Airport by Rasul Guliyev, chairman of the Republic's Supreme Soviet; Afiaddin Dzhililov, deputy chairman of the Republic's Supreme Soviet; deputy prime ministers, ministers, and other officials. The Azerbaijani leader granted an interview to our correspondent Beshir Sherifov at the airport.

[Begin recording] [Sherifov] Mr. President, you are leaving for an official visit to Moscow and will hold talks with the heads of state of CIS countries. What will the benefit of these talks be for Azerbaijan?

[Aliyev] As you know, we are going to attend the regular meeting of the CIS. The CIS heads of state will discuss matters on the agenda of the meeting. We will take part in these discussions. A number of important problems will be discussed there. We have our own views on these issues. However, during this meeting I mainly intend to raise once again the need to prevent Armenia's aggression against Azerbaijan. This is because, as I said, a war between CIS members is abnormal, it is an abnormal situation. Therefore, this issue is my main concern. I consider it more important than other issues, because Armenia's Armed Forces offensive against Azerbaijan is continuing. Intensive attacks were also launched yesterday. Before arriving here at the airport in the morning, I contacted the commanders at the front. The Armenian Armed Forces are continuing their attacks today. They are not stopping their aggressive actions and intentions. I intend to raise these issues in strong terms. I also want to state that our military units and fighters are able to resist the attacks of the Armenian Armed Forces and are dealing them deserved replies and blows. However, sadly enough, the Armenian side still fails to draw the necessary conclusion from this.

I addressed the nation and the entire world on 12 April on Armenia's aggression. Reports coming in yesterday showed that my appeal to the world has been positively

received. We have already received reaction from various countries. However, what pleases me most is that our people, the Azerbaijani citizens, have highly appraised this address. The commander of the troops headquarters at the front, deputy defense minister, commander of the troops in Agdere [Mardakertskiy] and Geranboy [Shaumyanovskiy], and other commanders informed me last night that after my address many of the deserters returned to the Army yesterday and are taking part in the fighting. A certain sector informed me yesterday that more than 100 deserters have returned. I highly appreciate such a thing. And therefore, I gave orders yesterday that they be pardoned for the crime they committed by deserting. And, now through the television I am addressing our young people who have deserted or evaded the mobilization: Let them come to their senses and follow the path of those young people who have taken the correct path. I was very pleased when informed at night that the deserters are now returning to their units. This means that our people and youth are acting with reason and conscience. I believe that some of them might have fallen onto the wrong path out of objective reasons, inexperience, or youthfulness. However, what is satisfying is that they are now becoming aware of their responsibilities.

In one word, our army units are standing firm on the fronts. The attacks resumed early this morning. However, these attacks are being checked and repulsed, and I am sure that it will continue to be thus and our homeland will be defended. However, as I said on 12 April and I am saying now, we want to put an end to the war. I have invited the Armenian side to peace talks. After an hour I will be in Moscow and there I will make the same call to the leadership of both Armenia and Russia, and other CIS leaders. Let us see. I have not lost hope, and I expect that our views would produce some positive results.

[Sherifov] Cables arriving at Azerbaijan television prove that your address to the nation was well received and the people are expecting much from your meeting in Moscow.

[Aliyev] I also have such an expectation. We will see.
[end recording]

'Fierce' Fighting in Karabakh

LD1404192294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1324
GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Fierce fighting between Armenian and Azerbaijani troops continue in Karabakh's eastern and north-eastern areas. As a Karabakh Defence Ministry officer has reported to Interfax, the battle front now stretches for up to 100 kilometers. Azerbaijani forces still try to gain more ground. However, as a result of an Armenian counter-attack east of Mardakert on Wednesday, Azerbaijanis retreated with heavy losses to their former positions.

According to reports from Stepanakert, after a brief respite throughout last night, bitter fighting resumed

Thursday morning. Azerbaijani planes again bombed Karabakh on Thursday. However, there have been no report of casualties or damage.

Meanwhile, Azerbaijan's Defence Ministry reports about unceasing Armenian attempts over four successive days to mount attacks in the north, north-east, and south-east of Karabakh. According to figures from Baku, Armenia lost in two days of fighting about a hundred men, three tanks, and two armored vehicles. Azerbaijani casualties have not been reported. (Stepanakert denies reports of heavy Armenian losses - IF).

Azeri Forces Rebuff Offensive

LD1404181594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1631
GMT 14 Apr 94

[By AZERTAC correspondent Alla Baula for TASS]

[Text] Baku April 14 TASS—Armenian troops launched a fresh offensive in the Geranboi-Terter section of the Azerbaijani-Armenian front on Thursday, the Azerbaijani Defence Ministry said. It said Azerbaijani forces rebuffed the attack.

The Armenians had to retreat after their attempt to seize the village of Gyullidzha in the Agdam district of Azerbaijan failed. They lost two tanks and several people were killed. Azerbaijani troops also destroyed Armenian positions which were used to shell Azerbaijani villages in the district, the report said.

The ministry said that Armenian forces continue shelling border villages in the Kazakh district of Azerbaijan and the border outpost Kilid in the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic.

Karabakh Leader Accuses Baku of Disrupting Talks

LD1404221794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1934
GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Baku is unhappy with mediators' aspiration to reach a ceasefire in the Karabakh conflict zone. Baku "openly spoke against bringing separating forces into the region, which is the backbone of Russia's peace plan," Acting Chairman of the Nagorno-Karabakh Supreme Soviet Karen Baburyan told Interfax on April 14.

Therefore, he considers that it was not by chance that the start of a new offensive by the Azeri army in northern Nagorno-Karabakh and activation of peacekeeping efforts of the international community, and in the first place of Russia, "seeking the soonest end of bloodshed as the first step toward the beginning of talks" coincided.

In Baburyan's opinion, the prospect of Russia's military presence in the conflict zone alarmed the Azeri side which is aiming to disrupt a meeting between the warring sides at the highest level prepared with Russia's mediation.

Georgia**Police Bar Tbilisi Rallies by 'Zviadists'**

LD1404191994 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1300 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Ceremonial meetings have been held at a monument in Tbilisi to the Georgian language being the mother tongue every year on 14 April. But today, the public garden and the monument were controlled by Tbilisi police forces. Zviadists planned to hold a rally there in the customary way but the police did not permit them to gather. A column of people then moved toward the Russian Embassy to hold a protest action but the police also blocked it. Several people have been

detained. At the moment the police control the area adjacent to the Marjanishvili metro station.

Abkhazian 'Mercenaries' Actions Reported

LD1404164994 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1445 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] It became known that on 11 and 12 April, Abkhazian separatists and mercenaries looted and burned down about 25 dwelling houses in the village of Pichora in Gali Rayon. Several defenseless elderly people were brutally killed. The unrestrained actions of Abkhazian militants has reached its peak while negotiations on a peaceful settlement of the conflict are under way. The Gudautz grouping has no power to control criminal activities of hired murderers and looters.

Estonia

Russians in Estonia Appeal to Yeltsin

LD1404125594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1055 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Ethnic Russians in Estonia have appealed to Russia's President Yeltsin, parliament, and government to head off a serious ethnic conflict in that Baltic republic. The document, a copy of which has been made available to Interfax by the Congress of Russian Communities, points out that "the Estonian side by its actions is provoking mass acts of civil disobedience and in the background of a continuously worsening economic situation are preparing to introduce police rule."

The community charges the Estonian nationalist government with the intent to start ethnic cleansing in the republic by various means, direct deportation included, for which a concentration camp has been set at Rummu near Tallinn, and a special police service is being formed.

The community regards as humiliating for Russia the Estonian government's demands that the Russians permanently residing in the republic and persons without Estonian citizenship be required to formally apply for residence and employment, and that retired army officers are additionally forced to present their army service records and results of medical checks on AIDS, tuberculosis, and other diseases.

Those without residence permits are declared illegal foreign migrants and are expelled from Estonia immediately. But even with residence permits, the Russians and other nationals who have permanently lived in Estonia are only entitled to temporary residence (5 years) with all the ensuing consequences (the loss of the right to privatize housing, buy property, etc.), the appeal says.

No Agreement on Returning Illegal Aliens to Russia

WS1504082394 Tallinn BNS in English 1614 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] TALLINN, Apr 14, BNS—An unofficial meeting of border officials from Estonia and Russia today failed to settle the issue of possible deportation of illegal refugees back to Russia. The head of Estonia's northeastern border section, Riho Breivel, who represented Estonia at the meeting, said he had handed over to his Russian counterpart, Col. Viktor Kolotukhin, a formal application to send back to Russia the citizens of third countries, including the Kurds, who arrive in Estonia illegally.

"The representative of Russia was yet unable to announce to us any formal position on the issue, since they have an investigation still under way," Breivel said, adding that a solution to the issue was expected at an official meeting of border representatives. He expressed hope that Russia would propose a date for the official meeting "quite soon."

"We have achieved rather good cooperation with the Russian side and also the Russian border guards understand the problems that have emerged," he said.

Another meeting, in the village of Kruppa on the borderline between Estonia and Russia in Estonia's south-east on Wednesday [13 April], beside the illegal immigrants issue discussed introducing tighter controls on the borderline, which Estonia regards only as a temporary control line between the countries. The meeting was attended by the head of command of the Estonian Border Guard Department, Aare Evisalu, head of the service department Edgar Aaro, and the head of Russia's regional group of border forces at Pskov, Lt. Gen. Viktor Kostenko.

Coalition Parties Set Cooperation Principles

WS1404180394 Tallinn BNS in English 1300 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Tallinn, Apr 14, BNS—Leaders of the parties in Estonia's ruling coalition signed a document Tuesday [12 April] that establishes the principles for working closely between the five parties in the future. The Liberal Democrats, the Rural Centrists, the Estonian National Independence Party, the Social Democratic Party, and the National Assembly Party "Pro Patria" in the document take the obligation to abstain from making any statements which could be interpreted as breaking up the coalition link.

The document stipulates that dissenting opinions by the parties' factions in the parliament, by the government or the parties are binding to the coalition, whereas dissenting opinions by members of the factions and Cabinet members are only advisory. The same document says that the body presenting a dissenting opinion of binding character has the right for a veto of deferment, applicable to one and the same bill only once.

The paper signed on Tuesday is a working document that concerns above all the parties of the ruling coalition, Prime Minister Mart Laar said in his comments at today's press conference. The coalition parties felt that rules for their relations had to be established in a document, he added.

Paldiski Reactors' Nuclear Rods Withdrawal Postponed

WS1404180494 Tallinn BNS in English 1300 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Tallinn, Apr 14, BNS—Russia will not start pulling out nuclear rods from its reactors at the naval base of Paldiski in the second decade of March, as was established earlier, said Juri Tikk, the Estonian Government's special representative in Paldiski. The date for starting the work will be most likely set on Apr. 22 or 23, when the Russian group to carry out the dismantling is scheduled to arrive at the facility, located some 35 kilometers to the west of Tallinn. But Tikk expressed

hope that the work will still start this month. The two countries have already agreed upon the technical issues pertaining to the dismantling of the reactors in the Russian submarine crew training center.

Ago Tiiman, secretary of the Estonian delegation for talks with Russia and head of the group for military issues of the delegation, said Estonia had proposed what he called a totally new plan for the dismantling. "This idea is different from the earlier ones. Our position is that the rods must be out from Estonia by June 30, 1994. But the rest of the work—dismantling of the reactor corpus and taking out the solid and liquid nuclear waste—must take place as quickly as possible," Tiiman said in a press conference of the Estonian delegation. He said the idea reminded of an earlier suggestion, according to which the reactors would be mounted on special trailers and taken away by ship or train. He refused to specify.

Tiiman characterized his country's new proposal as optimal. He said work according to this scheme would cost Estonia less than 10 million U.S. dollars.

The Estonian Cabinet at its meeting on Apr. 12 ruled to introduce emergency regulations on the Pakri peninsula, where Paldiski is situated, during the period of work on the reactors. The regulations, to become effective after a decree by the minister of the interior, will make the region again off-limits area for outsiders. Estonian officials say that if Russia agrees to the scheme proposed by the country, the whole process of dismantling the reactors will take about three years.

Delegate: Council of Europe Must Respect Decisions

WS1504085894 Tallinn BNS in English 1951 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Strasbourg, Apr 14, BNS—The Council of Europe [CE] should respect its own decisions concerning the Baltic states, the head of the Estonian delegation, Tunne Kelam, told a meeting of the CE Parliamentary Assembly today. Kelam, who is also one of the vice presidents of the Parliamentary Assembly, was speaking at a meeting discussing how the council's fresh members had abided by their obligations. Kelam in his address spoke about Estonia's current situation and achievements, a spokesman for the Estonian delegation said.

The Estonian delegation this evening also met with the president of the Parliamentary Assembly, Miguel Angel Martinez.

Representatives from Estonia, Lithuania and Romania were elected members of the European Court of Human Rights. Estonian delegation member Karin Jaani was elected a co-chairman of the European People's Party group in the assembly. [passage omitted]

Latvia

Parliament Abandons Debate on Russian Military

LD1404123794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1055 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] A special session of Saeima (Latvia's parliament) on terms for the withdrawal of Russian troops, scheduled for April 15, will not take place. A decision to this effect was adopted by the Saeima's presidium at a request from President Guntis Ulmanis and Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs.

The decision notes that "there is no legal ground" for such debate since a meeting between the presidents of the two countries slated for April 20 has been put off indefinitely after an incident with Yeltsin's ruling on a military base in Latvia. The Latvian leadership insists that Yeltsin officially revoke the document, which has been repudiated by Russian foreign and defence ministry officials already.

Opposition Hardens Stance on Agreements With Russia

PM1504080994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Apr 94 p 3

[Irina Litvinova report: "'Technical Error' Costs Russians in Latvia Deal"]

[Text] Riga—President Guntis Ulmanis considers a meeting with Boris Yeltsin impossible in the near future. Russia has not rescinded in the form demanded by Latvia the presidential directive on the creation of a military base on Latvian territory.

The two presidents were to have met 20 April. The meeting could have brought Latvia and Russia closer together and smoothed over some political problems. In mid-March agreements on the troop withdrawal from Latvia, social guarantees for military pensioners, and the status of the radar station at Skrunda were initiated.

The ruling coalition has had difficulty in getting the documents ratified in the Saeima, fending off virulent opposition from the national radical opposition, which considers the agreements a "betrayal" and a "threat to our independence." Now even the agreements' supporters are claiming that there can be no question of ratifying them in their previous form. The agreement on Russian military pensioners is under threat. An accord had previously been reached to the effect that Russian military pensioners transferred to the reserve before 1992 could stay in Latvia. There are currently around 21,000 of them in the republic, and more than one-half are over 60.

Patriots are calling for changes to the composition of the delegation to the talks with Russia and for those talks to be conducted in a tougher and more demanding way. Radicals are calling in several publications for violent

action against the "occupiers" and "colonialists" and for the overthrow of the current authorities.

Urges New Delegation to Talks

WS1504082594 Tallinn BNS in English 1614 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] RIGA, Apr 14, BNS—Deputies in the Latvian Saeima (parliament) oppositionary National Bloc said Wednesday [13 April] they wanted a new delegation for talks with Russia. The bloc also urges the parliament not to ratify the March 15 initialed agreements with Russia because they contain several norms that can be interpreted as legalization of consequences of the Soviet occupation in Latvia. These issues should be considered in an extraordinary session of the Saeima, the group said. The majority of the Latvian people dislikes the agreement on social guarantees for Russia's war pensioners in Latvia, the National Bloc said.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin's directive on the setup of a military base in Latvia signals that Russia has aggressive plans in the Baltic country. In addition, none of the foreign countries, which pressed Latvia into compromise with Russia on the Skrunda radar's operation, has extended real security guarantees against possible conflicts, disputes or provocations, according to the bloc's statement.

Yeltsin's decision presented the Latvian government a way out of situation because it would have had to resign if these floppy agreements were signed, said Aristids Lambergis, of the National Independence Movement faction.

Lambergis claims that the country's delegation for talks with Russia should include representatives of all Saeima factions.

The National Bloc proposes to convene an extraordinary plenary session to discuss the setup of the new delegation on April 20, Lambergis told BNS. The bloc's statement was signed by 16 deputies. To propose an extraordinary session, signatures of 33 deputies, or one-third of the 100-member Saeima, are needed. The National Bloc, which includes 35 MPs, hopes to get the lacking signatures until Monday.

The National Bloc includes National Independence Movement, Homeland and Freedom and Christian Democrats factions.

President Reviews Results of European Trip

WS1504082094 Tallinn BNS in English 1614 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Excerpts] RIGA, Apr 14, BNS—The European countries endorse the present Latvian stance in relations with Russia, the Baltic nation's President Guntis Ulmanis told reporters Thursday [14 April] on return from his European trip. During his three-day journey, Ulmanis met with 16 top level leaders of Denmark, France and

Great Britain and learned that the issue of relations between Latvia and Russia would be considered in the European Union's [EU] Political Committee. [passage omitted]

Ulmanis and European politicians discussed a possibility to create a special foundation to help Russia's military retirees return to their historic homeland. The foundation could be sponsored by European countries, the Latvian president said. Consequently, the return of war pensioners to Russia could be settled "in a civilized manner," Ulmanis said. The foundation's resources could also be used to clean the environmental damage from the Russian-operated radar facility at Skrunda.

The Latvian Cabinet has already set up a working party to draft the foundation's statutes.

Ulmanis reiterated that the package of withdrawal agreements would not be signed unless Yeltsin revoked the April 5 directive. In addition, Ulmanis claims that the initialed agreements should be amended before signature in view of the setup of the mentioned foundation.

Latvia's people staunchly reject several terms in the agreements judging by "thousands of letters with many signatures," Ulmanis noted. The very idea to create the military personnel repatriation foundation belongs to one of their authors. Taking into account the interior situation in Latvia and Russia, Latvia cannot try to begin talks on entirely new agreements on troop withdrawal, Ulmanis said.

Ulmanis quoted European politicians as praising the agreement on Russian troop withdrawal by Aug. 31 as a considerable achievement of the Latvian diplomacy. The signature of the troop withdrawal treaty is considered a basic prerequisite for Latvia's acceptance to the European Union, Ulmanis said.

Foreign Ministry's Parliamentary Secretary Martins Virsis, who accompanied Ulmanis to Europe, said that EU is unlikely to enroll countries that are unable to settle their relations with neighbors. Consequently, Latvia has to tackle the key problems in relations with Russia independently. Ulmanis prognosticated that Latvia could become EU associated member in 18 months.

During the trip, Ulmanis and European leaders also touched on the problems of citizenship in Latvia. EU member states should not prioritize the applicants' ethnic belonging in naturalization. The other criteria, like language skills and residence qualifications, are interior issues of each separate country.

Deputies Appeal to European Council

WS1404115094 Tallinn BNS in English 0944 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Riga, Apr 14, BNS—Latvian Saeima [parliament] delegation handed Latvian Foreign Minister Georgs Andrejevs's letter to the European Council's Parliamentary Assembly Tuesday [12 April] in Strasbourg. The

letter is addressed to the Assembly's Secretary-General Catherine Lalumiere. The letter tells about events in Latvia, connected with Russian President Boris Yeltsin's April 5 order to set up military bases in CIS states and Latvia. The letter says that Latvian people consider the order to contradict the Latvian-Russian initialed agreements on Russian army withdrawal and the Skrunda radar station's status.

Latvian people think that Yeltsin's order jeopardizes Latvia's independence, says the letter. Though Russian Ambassador Aleksandr Rannikh apologized for the incident and said that Latvia was mentioned in the list by mistake, Latvia still expects Russia to make an official retraction of the order.

While Latvia has not received the official retraction of Yeltsin's order, the planned April 20 talks between Latvian and Russian presidents and the signing of the initialed agreements are postponed.

Lithuania

Report on Brazauskas' Speech to European Parliament

LD1404174394 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1100 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas delivered a speech at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg today.

In his speech, as expected, the Lithuanian president devoted a great deal of attention to problems concerning Lithuanian-Russian relations, Baltic News Service reports. At the same time, Brazauskas urged the West to give stronger support to Central and Eastern European states in their aspirations to become members of the European Union. According to the president, the maintaining of good relations with the neighboring countries is a priority task for Lithuania, and so far there are no serious obstacles for Lithuania to have relations of good-neighborliness and cooperation with Russia, Poland, and Belarus.

But the Lithuanian president drew attention to, according to him, a feature that has emerged lately in Russia's relations with its neighbors. Further events bear witness to the fact that it is not easy to change the established stereotypes in relations with smaller neighbors, stressed Algirdas Brazauskas. In his opinion, Russia's relations with the neighboring countries should correspond with universally recognized principles of international law. Russia's respect for the sovereignty of the Baltic states, the repudiation of the concept of Near Abroad, and the implementation of international agreements will accelerate a positive decision by the Council of Europe on the membership of that country.

He said that it is especially important to Lithuania whether the Kaliningrad region, the former military

advanced post of the Soviet Union, is gradually demilitarized and becomes an active business zone. We feel positive efforts by Moscow and Kaliningrad in this direction, but sometimes contrary tendencies can be noticed, too.

Speaking of the expansion of the European Union, Algirdas Brazauskas noted that the success of the integration by the Baltic states is very dependent on Latvia's membership in the Council of Europe. A unique ethnic composition of the population created during the Soviet occupation has emerged in Latvia, but problems connected with this should not be cause the postponement of its full membership.

Brazauskas said that, in his view, Russia was able to implement democracy and avoid the breakthrough of menacing military forces. Therefore, the procedure for Russia's membership started in the Parliamentary Assembly is a political and moral support for the democratic forces in that country. The withdrawal of the Russian Army from the territories of Latvia and Estonia by 31 August will very favorably reflect Russia's intention to peacefully regulate its relations with its neighbors.

In his speech, the Lithuanian president assessed as a great political success the initialed Lithuanian-Polish treaty, which bears witness to the increasing mutual understanding of both nations and puts a juridical full stop to the historical disputes of both countries.

He explained Lithuania's stance on the Jewish genocide during the Second World War. I grieve because of the large number of victims and regret that some Lithuanians took part in the punitive actions. Therefore, I firmly state that all criminals whom justice has not reached yet should be exposed and punished. We are doing this consistently and invite all the interested organizations and persons to cooperate. Maybe, not everything has been said about those tragic events, but we are not afraid to talk about this and with open hearts seek mutual understanding both with Israel and with Jewish communities in our and in other states.

Speaking at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Brazauskas said that so far, only the irreversibility of the process of reforms has been assured in the country. But it has not yet been achieved that the reforms become a source of well-being and progress of all the citizens, Baltic News Service reports.

President's Comments After Council of Europe Speech Noted

WS1504085594 Tallinn BNS in English 1614 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] STRASBOURG, 14 Apr, BNS—Abolition of the death penalty and relations with Russia dominated the questions that Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas was asked after his speech in the CE [Council of Europe] Parliamentary Assembly Thursday [14 April]. There

were also questions about the status of Poles and sexual minorities in Lithuania, as well as about the private TELE-3 TV station.

Answering a question on Russian transit to the Kaliningrad region through Lithuania, Brazauskas said he and Russian President Boris Yeltsin agreed that the problem would be discussed after a package of bilateral agreements between their countries is signed. The Lithuanian president claimed Russia's demand "to open an unrestricted corridor" through Lithuania is hardly understandable.

Commenting on Russia's statements about the "near abroad," Brazauskas said it would be best if Russia would explain itself the meaning of the concepts "near abroad" and "zone of influence." If a zone of influence means cultural and economic cooperation, Lithuania has interests in Russia, where some 100,000 Lithuanians live since the times of Stalinism, he said.

Discussing the withdrawal of Russian troops from the Baltic states, Brazauskas said the problem and Russia's admission to the CE are interrelated. In his view, the problem will be resolved this year.

Discussing the irreversibility of independence processes, the Lithuanian leader said he is an optimist and thinks that times of interfering with the internal affairs of another country have passed.

Brazauskas confirmed that capital punishment still exists in Lithuania. The Lithuanian leader said three persons have been executed during his term of office, and two more convicts are on death row. The president noted that a virtually Soviet-type criminal code is still effective in Lithuania, but a new one is ready, according to which the death penalty would be applied only in special cases, such as cruel murder of several persons. Brazauskas expressed hope that the Lithuanian parliament will adopt the new criminal code this year.

Answering Polish representative Janusz Szymanski's question about the status of the Polish minority in Lithuania, Brazauskas said the rights of ethnic minorities in Lithuania are protected by the Constitution and other laws. The president also noted that the number of Poles in Lithuania is 270,000, but not 400,000 as was indicated by the Polish lawmaker.

There is no international aspect in the status of the Polish minority in Lithuania, and all minor problems that do occur are successfully resolved by the governments, Brazauskas said. In his words, such problems, if they will occur, can be discussed during his upcoming meeting with Polish President Lech Walesa in Vilnius 26 April.

Estonia's representative asked about Lithuania's contribution to the creation of a Baltic peacekeeping battalion and its functions. Brazauskas said the battalion is primarily meant for maintaining peace in other "or maybe our

regions." The president said a Baltic peacekeeping battalion should be ready for action after about a year.

Brazauskas said sexual minorities is not a problem requiring special attention in Lithuania. The president said he never dealt with any such problems, except knowing that punishment for homosexuality has been abolished in Lithuania.

A representative of Iceland asked whether it is true that the private TELE-3 TV is being closed down in Lithuania. Brazauskas answered that two out of three TV channels in Lithuania are commercial and nobody intends to close them down. "But transmitter rent has to be paid."

Brazauskas denied allegations that government positions are too widely represented in the Lithuanian press. "We have so much freedom that we don't even know how to make use of it," the president said. He noted, however, that the press "works hard, reveals much evil and helps the government."

President Appoints Aide-De-Camp To Assist in Duties

WS1404180594 Tallinn BNS in English 1300 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Vilnius, 14 Apr, BNS—Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas on 8 April named Lieutenant Colonel Audronius Beisy, Army vehicles engineer, to be aide-de-camp to the president.

A President's Office official said Brazauskas had no aide-de-camp until now because "we could not afford one."

The principal function of an aide-de-camp is to assist the president in fulfilling his duties as the supreme commander in chief of the Armed Forces.

Until his present appointment, Beisy, 41, served as acting commander of the Gelezinis Vilkas (Iron Wolf) infantry brigade. He is a graduate of a Soviet military academy in Leningrad and until 1988 served in a paratrooper brigade of the Transcaucasian command.

Beisy began service in the Lithuanian system of defense in 1991. He is divorced and has two children.

Future Government Decisions To Be Made at Closed Meetings

LD1404182594 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Russian 1200 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] It was announced today at a news conference by Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius that the form of work by the Lithuanian Government is to be changed in the immediate future. All decisions will be made at closed meetings, and then the government press attache will comment on them to journalists and the public.

Such practice exists in many countries. This does not mean that government work will be secret. We free journalists from taking part in weary meetings, said the prime minister.

'Extremely Unproductive' Border Talks With Russia Noted

WS1504085294 Tallinn BNS in English 1951 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] VILNIUS, 14 Apr, BNS—The latest round of Lithuanian-Russian talks on border delimitation was "extremely unproductive," said Lithuanian Deputy Foreign Minister Vladislovas Domarkas. Lithuanian and Russian negotiators met in Kaliningrad Wednesday [13 April].

Domarkas, who headed the Lithuanian delegation, said the meeting was devoted to boundaries of territorial waters, land border and several versions of a draft agreement on Lithuanian-Russian state border.

Domarkas said completely no progress was made in any of the issues because "the demands were too high."

Zenonas Kumetaitis, head of the Lithuanian Geodesy Service, told Lithuanian TV that Russia unexpectedly decided to review border on the Kursiu peninsula. But in his words, sea border remains the main stumbling block in bilateral talks.

Lithuanian and Russian negotiators are scheduled to hold their next meeting after a month.

Domarkas said Lithuanian and Latvian delegations intend to discuss sea border problems at a round of talks 18 April.

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